





*Following  
Homer's Odyssey*

*Inner Journey into  
Human Nature {1}*

**Art Aeon**

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*Human Causes of the Trojan War* (2020)\*  
*Awakening to One's Conscience* (2020)\*

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## ***Inner Journey into Human Nature***

### ***Following Homer's Odyssey***

Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

### ***Human Causes of the Trojan War***

Book 3: *Reflections on the Trojan War  
by Nestor and Odysseus*

Book 4: *Helen's Crucial Revelations  
at her Death*

### ***Awakening to One's Conscience***

Book 5: *Pilgrimage of Penelope and  
Odysseus to the Ruins of Troy*

Book 6: *Dawn of a New Era: Helenus,  
Andromache, Aethon, and Ganymede*

Book 7: *Inner Awakening of Odysseus,  
Penelope, and Homer-Outis*

## Synopsis

### ***Following Homer's Odyssey: Inner Journey into Human Nature {1}***

by Art Aeon

The present work is a fictional narrative poem in the tercet stanzas. It imagines a numinous dream of the character *Homer-Outis* (the bard of *the Odyssey*) in which he converses with the shade of his revered ancestor, *Odysseus* (the protagonist of the *Odyssey*), on important events following his return to Ithaca. To avoid awful armed conflicts against the revolting families of the slain suitors, *Odysseus* takes a life-long exile. His devoted wise wife, *Penelope*, decides to join with *Odysseus*; they transform the fateful exile into the meaningful adventures to learn of the mystery of human nature.

This narrative poem consists of two parts:  
Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*  
Book 2: *The Exile of Odysseus with Penelope*

***Following Homer's Odyssey*** is the beginning part {1} of an imaginary narrative poem:  
***Inner Journey into Human Nature.***

## Prologue

### ***Following Homer's Odyssey: Inner Journey into Human Nature {I}***

The present work is a fictional narrative poem in the tercet stanza. It unfolds imaginary dialogues between the character *Homer-Outis*, the legendary ancient Greek bard of the *Odyssey*, and the character *Odysseus*, the protagonist of the *Odyssey*, on significant events following his return to Ithaca in a numinous dream of the epic poet.

To avoid awful armed conflicts against the revolting families of the slain suitors, *Odysseus* takes a life-long exile. His devoted wise wife, *Penelope*, decides to join with *Odysseus*; they transform the fateful exile into the meaningful adventures to learn of the mystery of human nature.

[1] **Book1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*** is an essential introduction to how the present fictional narrative happened to begin:

- (1-a) In a mysterious and numinous dream, the main character *Homer-Outis* happens to meet with a strange godlike sage in a wondrous realm.
- (1-b) When the sage asks him who he is, he confesses that he is a bard from Ithaca, a descendant of the godlike hero *Odysseus*, called *Homer of the Odyssey*, or *Homer-Outis*.

(1-c) At the enthusiastic request of the excited sage, *Homer-Outis* recites a breath-taking episode from his *Odyssey*: the contest of Odysseus's bow (Book 21). He notices that the strange sage is so profoundly moved by the story that he weeps overwhelmed in ineffable emotions.

(1-d) The astonished *Homer-Outis* prostrates in awe, and entreats the godlike sage to reveal who he is. The sage reveals that he is the shade of Odysseus, the real Nobody—OUTIS.

(1-e) The character *Homer-Outis* confesses to the character *Odysseus* that his *Odyssey* was a story about the godlike hero Odysseus of the Trojan War; it was based on vague and confusing ancient legends about him, passed down by countless minstrels of the bygone eras. He wishes that *Odysseus* check his *Odyssey*, whether it has portrayed him accurately or not.

(1-f) The present imaginary narrative unfolds the sincere and soul-searching discussions on the *Odyssey* between its author *Homer-Outis* and its protagonist, *Odysseus*.

(1-g) Encouraged by the comments on his *Odyssey*, *Homer-Outis* asks *Odysseus* crucial questions about the enigmatic story of the Trojan War as related in the *Iliad* by his revered mentor, *Homer-Meles*, known as the *Homer of the Iliad*, the bard of Meles in Smyrna, Asia.

(1-h) *Homer-Outis* wishes to learn from the hero *Odysseus* what had caused the ten-year-long tragic conflict because *Homer-Meles* left unsung about the real causes nor what happened in the first nine years of the enigmatic Trojan War in his *Iliad*. But *Odysseus* is hesitant to recall his own painful and horrible experiences of the Trojan War.

(1-i) *Homer-Outis* entreats to *Odysseus* to tell him what had happened after his return to his kingdom; he wishes to sing of a proper sequel to his *Odyssey* for the generations of humanity to come.

(1-j) Eventually, *Odysseus* is persuaded by *Homer-Outis* to reveal what has happened after his return to Ithaca and his own awful experiences of the tragic Trojan War.

[2] **Book 2: The Exile of Odysseus with Penelope** is the beginning of an imaginary sequel to *the Odyssey*. The character *Odysseus* assumes the role of a muse who narrates it for a private audience of the character *Homer-Outis* in the present fictional narrative.

(2-a) Soon after the extermination of the suitors, Telemachus summons the Ithacans to an urgent assembly. He announces to them the return of his revered godlike father and their wise fatherly king, *Odysseus*, back to his beloved kingdom, twenty years after he left for the great war in Troy.

(2-b) Odysseus, disguised as a tramp in tattered rags, reveals himself to the astonished Ithacans in awe and wonder. He addresses to them how he returned home as a sole survivor of the devastating shipwrecks of the entire Ithacan fleets on the way sailing home after the sack of Troy.

(2-c) At this moment, a servant informs that the old gravely ill father of Odysseus, King Laertes, wishes to see his cherished son before he passes away. Immediately Odysseus and Telemachus adjourn the meeting, and they rush to see Laertes at his farmhouse.

(2-d) Wise hermit-king Laertes advises Odysseus to be aware of the anger of the slain suitors' families; he prophesizes that he must leave Ithaca for his real home: The whole world of mankind to learn human nature to the very end. Then he gently passes away in peace.

(2-e) Odysseus abdicates his throne to his son, Telemachus, acclaimed by the Assembly of the whole Ithacans as their new king, and retires with his devoted wife Penelope to the small remote farm left by Laertes.

(2-f) Telemachus learns how to govern people wisely with sincere devotion. Gradually justice, amity, peace, and prosperity are restored in Ithaca. He marries Polycastes, the graceful youngest daughter of Nestor.

(2-g) One day, massive fleets of warships surround Ithaca and threaten to invade by the enormous armed forces, organized by the angry families of the slain suitors for revenge.

(2-h) Wise brave Queen Penelope meets with King Nisus of Dulichion, the commander-in-chief of the hostile armed forces, and negotiates with the foes for a peaceful solution of the grave conflict.

She persuades them to consult with the divine judgement on this matter at the sacred shrine of Apollo in Delphi.

(2-i) The divine decree is that the suitors' families must pay to the estate of Odysseus tenfold what their sons had plundered. When they fulfil it, then Odysseus must leave his home for a life-long exile.

(2-j) Odysseus accepts the divine verdict as the just punishment of his wrong overdoing in killing all suitors. Penelope is firmly determined to join with Odysseus in his life-long exile.

(2-k) In due time, Odysseus and Penelope leave Ithaca and sail to visit their revered old wise friend, King Nestor in Pylos.

(2-l) But Odysseus steers his ship to Dulichion on the way to Pylos. He and his wife meet with King Nisus and other hostile families of the suitors; he reconciles with his foes in person for peace.

(2-m) Eventually, Odysseus and Penelope sail carefree across the vast open sea, embarking new adventurous and exciting quests to learn the mystery of human nature; the ship of their common destiny sails through the enchanting night to greet a beauteous dawn of new hopes in their deep conjugal love.

## **Book 1**

*Into a Dream of Homer-Outis*

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘Of the War in Troy, Muse, you have inspired  
our hearts to sing: how valiantly  
many heroes fought to attain  
ageless fame, and perished; how gravely gods  
intruded in man’s affairs, unfolding  
fateful dire tragedies.

1-3

And how the astute man of resourceful  
wits came home safe, at last, after  
he had sacked splendid Troy.

1-6

Long, harsh woes he suffered at violent seas,  
striving to bring his comrades back  
home, and to save his life.

1-12

He met various strangers in alien lands;  
He learned their diverse minds to find  
who he was in himself.

1-15

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

I exalt your eloquent songs of our past  
heroic era. Now prevail bleak,  
dark ages, suffocating  
our inane minds in utter ignorance.

1-18

Sing in me, o Muse, things vital  
to revive our spirit.'

1-21

*Thus prays an ancient bard, chanting in deep,  
earnest voice rapt in a trance. Amid scrolls  
of unfinished epics*

1-24

*he falls asleep. In a dream, he finds himself  
sailing at sea aboard a strange boat:*

*It steers itself to reach  
its mysterious destination: an unknown  
isle looms amid vast sea in the lucent  
glow of the rising sun.*

1-27

1-30

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*The boat alights on a cove. Elated in wonder,  
the bard strolls carefree along vibrant  
shores of the ethereal realm.*

1-33

*A godlike sage appears from mystic woods:  
'Welcome stranger,' gently he greets,  
'speak to me who you are.'*

1-36

*Whither have you come, and for what purpose?  
'I am a humble minstrel, born  
in the sea-girt Ithaca.'*

1-39

*Since my early youth, I have wandered all  
over the Hellas, singing what muses  
inspire me in my heart.*

1-42

*I cannot recall,' says the bard, 'how it  
happened for me to ramble here  
like in a wondrous dream.'*

1-45

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘A bard from Ithaca!’ *exclaims the sage,*  
‘I respect bards inspired by muses  
more than powerful lords.

1-48

Tell me, dear bard, your name and parentage.’

‘In the immemorial era  
of our godlike heroes,  
wise Odysseus, they say, was my foremost  
forefather. My real name is Outis,  
but they call me Homer

1-51

of Ithaca, or Homer of *the Odyssey*,  
or just Homer,’ *says the bard.* ‘What?  
An offspring of Odysseus!

1-54

My dear bard, Outis, why they don’t call you  
by your real name?’ *asks the sage,*  
*beaming warm gentle smiles.*

1-60

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘They say that *Outis* is not a real name,’  
*says the bard*, ‘but a trick used by wily  
Odysseus.’ ‘I see. Well then

1-63

why are you called *Homer of the Odyssey*?’  
*asks the sage*. ‘Because I have brought  
together various ancient

1-66

legends about the adventurous homecoming  
of brave, resourceful Odysseus  
with his comrades-in-arms

1-69

after they sacked powerful, splendid Troy,  
into an epic, called *the Odyssey*.’

‘How much I wish to hear,’

1-72

*exclaims the sage with eager enthusiasm*,  
‘you sing it for me!’ ‘Which episodes  
from the long *Odyssey*

1-75

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

would you like to hear me sing?' *asks the bard.*

'Please choose whichever you deem to  
be the most important

1-78

and critical episode that has moved you  
as well as your audiences,' *says*  
*the sage in excitement.*

1-81

*The bard prays to muses for inspiration.*

*Then he gently begins to chant*

*in a deep, sonorous voice:*

1-84

'In the first night at his dear home after  
twenty years of harsh wanderings,  
long-suffering Odysseus

1-87

lay on the ground in the entrance hall of  
his palace disguised in tattered rags,  
as if he were a tramp

1-90

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

begging for food and shelter. Throughout the long,  
tense, anxious, sleepless night, he tossed  
himself torn in anguishes,

1-93

debating how he could overcome single-handed  
the whole multitude of the rash,  
insolent, young suitors.

1-96

The breathtaking sight of his beloved wife,  
Queen Penelope, lamenting for  
her long-missing husband

1-99

in faithful, heartfelt love—how deep she moved  
him; breaking yet warming his painful  
longing heart in cool pretense

1-102

of a stranger in disguise! It was to see  
Penelope, to live with her,  
and to die in her loving

1-105

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

bosom that he had swum across perilous seas,  
overcoming fierce tempests of gods  
and seductive temptations

1-108

of goddesses; but he had to conceal  
who he was, eating out his heart  
in torment, until that

1-111

triumphant hour he would succeed in purging  
the suitors from his house. Dawn rose  
on her golden throne. From

1-114

her lofty chamber Queen Penelope came  
down with her maids to the Great Hall,  
where all her suitors had

1-117

gathered to revel. Holding the Odysseus's  
stark bow in her arm, the queen spoke:

*"Hear me, my brazen suitors!"*

1-120

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*You have plundered our house to feast and drink,*

*while King Odysseus is absent—*

*gone so long. Your pretentious*

1-123

*excuse has been your zest to win my heart*

*to be your bride. Hence, I challenge you*

*to win me, gallant suitors:*

1-126

*I declare a fair contest for that prize.*

*Before you, I set this great bow*

*of mighty King Odysseus.*

1-129

*In his time, my dear husband would line up*

*twelve axe-heads at intervals like*

*a ship's ribbing, then he'd*

1-132

*back away a long way off, and he could whip*

*an arrow clean through all twelve. Now,*

*I impose this contest*

1-135

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*on you. The one who easily strings this bow  
and shoots through all twelve axes, I shall  
marry whoever he*

1-138

*may be, forsaking this great gracious house  
of my true love, filled with our cherished  
blissful memories; I shall  
always remember it even in my dream."*

1-141

This sudden stern ultimatum  
of Queen Penelope

1-144

stunned all—the blatant suitors, Telemachus,  
even Odysseus disguised as  
a foreign tramp; he trembled

1-147

in awe and taut thrills of an unexpected hope  
to seize his lethal bow, and triumph  
over the vast multitude

1-150

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

of rash vile suitors of his faithful wife.

Her loyal swineherd, Eumaeus

moved in tears, set out the old

1-153

bow of King Odysseus and iron axes

for the contest. “*Up to challenge,*

*my friends!*” said Antinous,

1-156

the arrogant ringleader of suitors:

“*One man after another, from the left*

*to the right, starting from where*

1-159

*we used to dip our wine.*” The first suitor

up was Leodes, a seer who loathed

the misdeeds of suitors.

1-162

Picking up the bow, he stood at the threshold

and strove to string the sturdy bow, but

failed to bend it; he tugged

1-165

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

hard the string, but his weak hands went slack.

In pain and anguish, he gave up,  
saying, “*Friends, I can’t bend it.*

1-168

*Try it, next man. Here is a bow to break  
the heart and spirit of the best  
contenders; better to be*

1-171

*dead than live on, never winning the prize  
who tempts us all, ever in pursuit  
burning with anxious vain*

1-174

*expectations. Anyone who aches to marry  
Queen Penelope, the wife of  
Odysseus, let him pit*

1-177

*himself against this fatal bow; he will see  
the very truth!” With those words Leodes  
thrust the bow aside, tilting*

1-180

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

it up against the massive wooden door, with  
one arrow aslant across the bow's horn.

But rash Antinous scolded

1-183

*the failed seer: “Leodes, what useless nonsense  
you prattle! You were not born to string  
that bow or let the arrow  
fly to hit its mark. But we have champions  
in our ranks who can and will do.”*

1-186

Now, strong Eurymachus,

1-189

a leading suitor, picked up the bow; he  
turned it over a blazing fire to soften  
the stiff, stubborn bow; but

1-192

even so, he failed in stringing the great bow.  
“Curse this day!” cried he out, “what shame  
*I feel, not for myself alone,*

1-195

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*and not only I lose the bride. It is less  
the marriage that mortifies me now—*

*'tis galling, too, but there are  
lots of fair women left for us to choose  
in great Achaea. No, the worst  
thing that breaks my heart is*

1-198

*the utter disgrace that we are too weak  
even to hitch the string over his bow:  
Shame to ring to men to come."*

1-201

*"Eurymachus," said sly Antinous, "come  
to yourself; it will never come  
to what you fear. Today  
is a feast day in honour of the Archer  
god. Let us set the bow aside. Rest  
easy today. Tomorrow*

1-204

1-207

1-210

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*in the early morning, we will burn goat's thighs  
to Apollo first, then try the bow,  
and finish off the contest.”*

1-213

He appealed to the dismayed suitors; they  
tipped libations for the god and drank  
their fill. Then long-suffering

1-216

Odysseus spoke: “*My lords, contenders for  
Queen Penelope, allow me  
to speak out what passion*

1-219

*in me moves. I put it to Eurymachus  
above all and you, brilliant wise  
Antinous, who spoke your good*

1-222

*Counsel. For today, give the bow a rest.  
Leave it to the god: Apollo  
will give power tomorrow*

1-225

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*to whom he wills; for the moment, please let  
me try the bow, right now, so I may  
amuse you all, trying*

1-228

*my hands. Is my old strength still alive inside  
these limbs? Or has my long, harsh roaming  
destroyed it?” “Not a shred*

1-231

*of sense in your head, you, insolent tramp!”  
shouted Antinous with rage; “the strong  
wine has engulfed your wits*

1-234

*to rave. See what evil, good wine can do  
to whoever gulps it down beyond  
his limit. I promise you*

1-237

*no end of dire torments, if you dare to touch  
that bow; drink our wine in thanks, but hold  
your tongue. Don’t dare to contend*

1-240

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*with us, princely lords!" "Antinous!" stepped in  
the virtuous Queen Penelope*

*in indignation, "how*

1-243

*rude and wrong to look down whatever guest  
Telemachus welcomes to his house.*

*Do you really fear that,*

1-246

*if this stranger happens to string the Odysseus's  
great bow, he will take me home as  
his bride? He never dreamed*

1-249

*of such a thing, I'm sure, unless he is  
very Odysseus himself!" Then dismayed  
Eurymachus answered her:*

1-252

*"Queen Penelope, it is unthinkable  
that this tramp will marry you. But  
we do recoil at the mean*

1-255

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*gossips people will mutter:* ““Look at these  
weaklings courting the great brave King  
Odysseus’s wife; they couldn’t

1-258

even string his bow. But here came this strange  
tramp, drifting out of the blue; he  
strung the great bow with ease,

1-261

and shot through all twelve axes!”” *Such terrible  
gossips will fly. We will hang our heads  
in horrible shame.”* “Shame,

1-264

*Eurymachus?” rebuked Queen Penelope  
in a stern voice, “how can you hope for  
a good repute, while you*

1-267

*have plundered and devoured your king’s estates  
for so many years? Why hang your proud heads  
in shame over a trifle, now?*

1-270

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*This stranger looks a sturdy resourceful man:  
He claims to be of noble blood.*

*Give him the bow, now; let us* 1-273

*have it out! If Apollo grants him glory  
to string the bow, I will dress him  
in handsome clothes, give him* 1-276

*good sharp swords and lances to fight off men,  
and send him off, wherever his heart  
desires.” “Mother,” broke in* 1-279

*Telemachus, “as to my father’s bow,  
who may handle it or not, none here  
has more authority than* 1-282

*I do. No one will force or thwart my will,  
even if I decided to give  
this bow to our guest as* 1-285

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*a gift outright to carry off himself.*

*So mother, go back to your quarters.*

*Please tend to your own tasks:*

1-288

*The distaff and the loom, keeping your women  
working hard as well. As for the bow,  
men will see to that now;*

1-291

*I, most of all. I hold the reins of power  
in this house.” In wonder, Penelope  
gazed at her wise, valiant son,*

1-294

and withdrew to her inner chamber. At last,  
the bow was handed to the very hands  
of its good old master.

1-297

Trembling in thrills and thanks, Odysseus  
grasped the decisive weapon for  
his victory; like a bard

1-300

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

skilled at lyre and song who strains a string  
to a new peg with ease, he strung  
his mighty old bow with ease  
of a virtuoso. He plucked the string to test  
its pitch; it sang out clear and sharp  
as a sweet swallow's song.

1-303

1-306

In the hushed hall, it smote the rash suitors  
in horror, their fearful hearts fainting  
in shock. He snatched an arrow.

1-309

The rest of numerous arrows still bristled  
in the quiver, soon to be tasted  
wholly by the insolent  
suitors, revelling there. He drew the string  
and the butt of the arrow, aiming at  
the target, then let it fly—

1-312

1-315

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

the arrow flashed clean from the twanging bow  
through all sockets of the twelve axe-heads!'

*Here halts the bard his chanting  
as he sees tears streaming down the noble  
visage of the deeply moved sage.*

'Why are you weeping so  
heartbroken, noble sage? Were you a good  
friend or close kin of the doomed  
suitors, justly punished

by resourceful Odysseus on that day  
of decisive judgment?' 'I marvel  
at how vividly you

have imagined such a breathtaking event,'  
*says the elated sage, 'and sing it*  
in such a spellbinding

1-318

1-321

1-324

1-327

1-330

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

wondrous song. Somehow you are able to  
render your imagined *Odysseus*  
with such a sublime art,

1-333

as if you would have suffered his eventful  
life as your own living experiences!'

'What? Who are you? You must

1-336

be a god in disguise of man!' 'Once a man,'  
*says the sage*, 'but do not ask who

I was, nor what I did,

1-339

lest you portray me a sly impostor.'

'Nothing of you I know;' *says the bard*

*trembling in awe*, 'how

1-342

could I portray you hidden in deep mystery?'

'Poets can create fancies as if

they were real facts. You have

1-345

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

sung of Odysseus,’ says the sage, ‘but how  
could one confirm what you have sung  
about him is real, or just  
your fanciful imaginations?’ *Elated in awe*

1-348

*Homer-Outis prostrates humbly*  
and exclaims: ‘O, be thou  
the noble spirit of godlike Odysseus!  
Forgive all vain paltry follies

1-351

of humble minstrels; we  
sing at the command of powerful lords  
and the multitude of common  
people. Whatever they

1-354

desire to hear, we try to exalt it  
in songs with sacred names of muses.’

1-357

*The sage gently raises the bard,*

1-360

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*and embraces him in warm fatherly love:*

‘O my dear offspring, Homer-Outis!

I am the shade of real

1-363

Outis, Son of Pain—Odysseus himself!’

*says the mystic sage in solemnity.*

‘O Odysseus, my dear

1-366

revered great forefather! Please inspire me  
to sing of things true. I have toiled  
to set myself free from

1-369

forging artful fables, but all in vain.

I implore you to reveal to me

1-372

what happened after you

had brought justice to Ithaca.’ ‘None  
can know the ultimate truth,’ says  
*Odysseus*, ‘as our mind

1-375

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

makes up things, and forgets facts all the time;  
I remember things not as they were,  
but as what I think they

1-378

must have been.' 'They are the most meaningful  
things for me to learn,' says *Outis*,  
'and keep them in songs for  
generations of humanity to come. Please  
tell me how you got along with your wife  
and your son after such

1-381

a long absence. How did you manage  
bitter resentments of the slain  
suitors' families who  
could revolt against you for violent revenge?

1-387

How did the Ithacans receive you,  
who had come back home as

1-390

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

a sole survivor from the long, bloody War  
far away in Troy, losing their dear  
sons, husbands, and fathers  
who had bravely followed you to the War?

1-393

Did you see your old comrades-in-arms  
such as Nestor, Menelaus,  
or Diomedes after your return? Be  
my true muse, inspiring me to sing  
of the real Odysseus!'

1-396

1-399

*Thus pleads Outis with passionate enthusiasm.*

*Beaming subtle smile, Odysseus says:*

'My dear Outis, you are,  
I say, a tactful supreme bard: you know  
the delicate art of how to borrow  
others' tongues to tell what

1-402

1-405

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

you want to say as if it were all theirs.

Willingly I accept your challenge!

But before I begin

1-408

to unfold my story, I would like to hear

the gist of your whole *Odyssey*,

to be sure that it tells

1-411

about me, not of your fanciful imposter.'

'Please check the validity of my story,'

*says Outis in earnest,*

1-414

'as I have culled it from many diverse legends,

coming down to us by words of mouth

since time immemorial.'

1-417

'Begin from where you will,' *says Odysseus,*

'I am eager to hear what you sing.'

'After the sack of Troy,'

1-420

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*starts Outis to tell the gist of his tale,  
'the hero of *Odyssey* sailed home  
with his comrades-in-arms.*

1-423

*When they came to Ismarus, they attacked  
the wealthy port of Cicones; they killed  
the men, but women and  
rich plunders, they hauled away to stow on ships.*

1-426

*The hero urged his crews to run  
and set sail, but they did not*

1-429

*listened; there were too much wine to drink, and  
too many longhorn cattle and fat sheep  
shambling free along the beach*

1-432

*to feast on. In the meanwhile, the Cicones  
reinforced their troops, and beat down  
and expelled their pirates.*

1-435

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

From there they sailed on, glad to escape death  
yet sick at heart for their companions,  
killed by the fierce Cicones.

1-438

Soon his fleet suffered blasting wild tempests  
at sea. Howling demonic gales  
shrouded over in thunderheads

1-441

their ships, plunging headlong. The sails were slashed  
to rags by storms. Cringing at death,  
they pulled all their power

1-444

to row their ships to the nearest shoreline.

For many days they drifted astray on harsh  
unknown seas in dire despairs.

1-447

His drifting fleet wandered to a strange land,  
where people lived on the lush lotus,  
tasty sweet fruits and flowers.'

1-450

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘I remember the Lotus-eaters;’ says  
*Odysseus*, ‘they were placid nice  
people who gave us free  
the honey-sweet fruits; but whoever tasted  
them became only to wish to stay  
there with the Lotus-eaters,

1-453

grazing freely on lotus, forgetting  
all heartrending affairs of our world.’

1-456

‘It must be the fabled  
*Land of Leisure*. Why did you not stay there,  
and relish a good life in leisure?’  
asks *Outis*. ‘My heart urged me,’

1-459

says *Odysseus*, ‘to return to our homeland  
at all costs. I forced my comrades  
to embark on homecoming.

1-462

1-465

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘We sailed on risky seas to reach our dear home.’

‘Next, your fleets wandered to the land  
of Cyclops, did you not?’

1-468

‘Ah, yes, we did on that unlucky day!’ says  
*Odysseus*, ‘the gruesome memory  
of what the monstrous brute

1-471

did to us makes me shudder in horrors.’

‘Are you still proud that you have blinded  
the giant lawless Cyclops?’

1-474

‘No! I repent that my haughty curiosity,’  
says *Odysseus*, ‘forfeited the lives  
of my loyal comrades,

1-477

and I was punished by long, harsh wanderings.

Let’s move on to milder episodes.’

‘Very well, you enjoyed ease

1-480

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

and luxury,' says *Outis*, 'enthralled by  
the bewitching queen of Aeaea,  
magic Circe, for a year.'

1-483

'Yes, Circe was a fair, gracious hostess,  
who kindly soothed our bone-tired husks  
and grievous seething hearts.

1-486

Just before we came to her magic island,  
we suffered awful calamities  
at the secluded harbour

1-489

of Laestrygonians: awful giant cannibals.  
They destroyed all our fleets, save my ship,  
and devoured our comrades.

1-492

Circe provided us with whatever we  
needed to recover our courage,  
but she never tried to

1-495

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

detain us to serve her selfish desires.

When my loyal comrades-in-arms

awoke me from the year-long

1-498

lull of ease at Circe's comfortable

bosom, I professed her our wish

to leave for our homeland.

1-501

Willingly, she helped me set up my courses

with her divine foresight.' 'What things

did Circe foretell you?' 1-504

*asks Outis.* 'She warned me that Poseidon

wanted to punish me as I had blinded

his son, Cyclops Polyphemus.

1-507

Even so we might reach Ithaca safe,

after bearing up perilous,

severe, and harsh trials

1-510

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

such as the temptation to hear thrilling  
sweet songs of enticing Sirens,  
the stealthy attack of

1-513

the yelping horror, Scylla, and the deadly  
convulsion of awful Charybdis,  
if we would leave intact

1-516

the Helios' cattle, grazing at Thrinacia.  
But if we harm them, then my men  
and the ship will be destroyed.

1-519

Even if I escape death, I will come home  
late as a broken man in despairs  
to find terrible troubles

1-522

at my home: a massive mob of arrogant  
suitors devour my estates, courting  
my wife,' says *Odysseus*.

1-525

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘Yes, indeed, each one of the grim warnings  
foretold by Circe,’ says *Outis*,

‘came out to be all true  
in my epic, *the Odyssey*. When they sailed  
close to the island of Sirens,  
the hero put beeswax

1-528

to the ears of all his shipmates as told  
by Circe so that none of them  
could hear the Sirens’ sweet,

1-531

enticing, and spellbinding songs that would  
transfix any man to fall into  
lethal traps. Hence they avoided

1-534

safely the sly alluring temptations  
of attractive Sirens. Then they  
came to a terrible

1-537

1-540

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

perilous strait. They saw thick smokes and heavy  
breakers, and heard booming thunders.

While they struggled to pass 1-543

the deadly bottleneck between horrible  
Scylla and convulsing Charybdis,  
suddenly Scylla snatched

1-546

six-strong crews from their ship; they struggled,  
gasping as Scylla swung them up,  
and gulped them raw; they screamed

1-549

and tossed their arms, forlorn in that gruesome  
sufferings.' 'Yes, it was the worst  
awful sight I had to

1-552

witness,' says *Odysseus*, 'such dire memories  
wrench my aching heart even now.'

'After the harsh trial, 1-555

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

they sailed to the lush green island of the Sun,  
where Helios kept his fine cattle  
and flocks of purebred sheep,’

1-558

*says Outis.* ‘Ah, Thrinacia! In spite of  
its pastoral abundance and beauty,’

*says Odysseus,* ‘it was

1-561

the fatal place of our doom! All my shipmates  
revolted against me in bold mutiny.

They disobeyed my stern

1-564

order not to harm any cattle of Helios,  
grazing freely in that lush field.

I had revealed to them

1-567

the grave danger of our utter destruction,  
foretold to me by the intelligent  
goddess Circe. Despite

1-570

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

of their awareness of the dreadful peril,  
however, they dared to ignore it,  
and they slaughtered Helios's  
cattle, and feasted on them as hunger racked  
their starved bellies, while I was overcome  
by an irresistible sleep.'

1-573

‘Your recollection confirms what I’ve sung  
in my *Odyssey*;’ says *Outis*,  
‘They sailed off Thrinacia

1-579

to the wide-open sea, at last. Suddenly  
overpowering squalls blasted and tore  
down the mast, toppling

1-582

into the stern. Then the ship was hit by  
a devastating thunderbolt.

The shattered ship sank, and

1-585

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

all his shipmates were cut short their journey  
home forever, except the hero;

He lashed the mast and keel,

1-588

and built a makeshift raft; he drifted forlornly  
in harsh perils and dire despairs  
for many days at the wild sea.

1-591

At last he was cast upon Ogygia,  
a hidden island amid sea—home  
of the subtle nymph with

1-594

charming braids, called Calypso. She took in  
the forlorn man, and fell in love  
with the helpless captive.'

1-597

‘Ah, my seven-long years of captivity  
under the entralling spell of  
subtle warm Calypso!’

1-600

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*sighs Odyssaeus*, ‘in the long nights, I had  
to sleep with her on the cozy bed  
in her large arching cave—

1-603

unwilling mortal allured by ardent  
goddess, all too willing to make  
love with him. But during

1-606

all my days of tedious captivity,  
I sat alone on rugged hard rocks  
and bare beaches, eating out

1-609

my sad heart with sigh, sob, groan and anguish,  
and gazing out over the barren sea  
through blinding tears in despairs.’

1-612

‘But didn’t Calypso love you,’ asks *Outis*,  
‘with her faithful heart? She even vowed  
to make you immortal,

1-615

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

if you agreed to be her husband, didn't she?"

'Yes, it was all true. But I wanted,'

*says Odysseus in solemn*

1-618

*stance, 'to remain as who I've been: a man  
who is true to his conscience and fate.*

Calypso said to me:

1-621

*"If you only knew what pains are fated to you  
before you might reach your native shore,  
you would preside in our house*

1-624

*with me and be immortal. Much as you  
long to see your wife, the one you  
pine for all your days, and yet*

1-627

*I might claim to be nothing less than she;  
Is it right, you think, for a mortal  
woman to dare to rival*

1-630

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*an immortal goddess in beauty or  
wisdom?" I replied to her in earnest:*

*"Well I know, great goddess,  
that my wife Penelope falls far short  
of you, your beauty and stature.*

*She is mortal; but you—* 1-636  
*you never age or die. Nevertheless,  
I long to return to my own  
old sweet family in*

*my native homeland, and meet with the end  
of my eventful hard life in peace  
among my beloved good friends.* 1-639

*Please grant me to return to my own home.  
If a god wrecks me on stormy seas,  
again, I will bear it too,* 1-642

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*with a humble heart, tempered to endure.*

*Much have I suffered, toiled long and  
hard in fierce wars and storms. ”*

1-648

Somehow Calypso conceded to cede me,  
either moved by my earnest pleas  
or gods' decree on my fate.

1-651

She helped me build a sturdy raft, provided  
me with plenty of foods and supplies,  
and sent me off, at last.’

1-654

‘Thus set free from the long captivity  
by the entralling Calypso,’  
*says Outis, ‘the hero*

1-657

of my *Odyssey* steered the slender raft,  
built and rigged by himself, and sailed  
at the vast sea, elated with

1-660

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

high spirit, breathing in his exalted freedom.  
For seventeen days he sailed, making  
headway. At long last, shadowy 1-663  
mountains loomed afar: the Phaeacians' island  
emerging over the vast misty sea  
like a fabulous shield. 1-666

Suddenly, terrible tempests upset  
his bold voyage; massive billows  
crashed down and thrashed his head. 1-669

He was thrown off from the torn spinning raft  
by brawling gales struck in full force.  
He went under surging waves; 1-672

But he fought his way to the surface, spewing  
bitter brine; half-drowned as he was,  
yet he did not lose his will 1-675

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

and skills for survival. For three days and nights,  
he swam amid the harsh sea of death  
to reach the firm land of life.

1-678

At last, he swam to sandy shores at a river's  
mouth. He kissed the good dry ground in  
heartfelt thanks. Deathly waves

1-681

of exhaustion overwhelmed him; he lay on  
dead leaves and swift, deep sleep released  
him from his dire pains and woes.

1-684

When the hero awoke on the next bright mid-day,  
he saw a flock of pretty young girls  
washing clothes on riverbanks.

1-687

He crept out bushes to ask the girls for help.  
A terrible sight—naked, crusted and  
caked with brine as he was,

1-690

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

but his dire need drove him on to speak with  
the tender lovely girls. They fled  
in panic to broad beaches.

1-693

But one maiden bravely kept her calm poise,  
and met the hero face to face.

She was princess Nausicaa,

1-696

the youngest daughter of king Alcinous  
of Phaeacia. When the hero  
requested her for help, she

1-699

encouraged him to visit her palace,  
and plead her mother, Queen Arete,  
to be conveyed to his homeland.

1-702

The lovely thoughtful maiden bade him to  
bathe in the river to cleanse himself,  
and gave him fresh, clean clothes

1-705

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

to put on, and follow her team at a discreet  
distance. The hero obeyed her  
prudent bidding with a glad heart.

1-708

King Alcinous and Queen Arete received  
the stranger with royal courtesy.

They heard his dire sufferings,

1-711

and granted his earnest plea for conveyance  
to his homeland over the vast sea.

In honour of their strange guest,

1-714

they held feasts and contests in various games,  
dancing and singing. When the blind bard,  
Demodocus, sang how

1-717

the Achaean heroes had sacked mighty Troy  
after long dire struggles, the guest  
could not help but weep in pang.

1-720

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

At this point, King Alcinous halted the bard,  
and solemnly asked his strange guest  
to reveal who he was.

1-723

Eventually, the guest confessed that he was  
Odysseus, son of Laertes, and  
Ithaca was his dear home.

1-726

He carried out his eloquent recounting  
of his ten-year-long adventures  
after sacking mighty Troy

1-729

in a long breathtaking retrospective  
through the night at King Alcinous's  
palace. His narration

1-732

held down the whole audience spellbound in awe,  
heartfelt pity, and deep respect  
for his wise, intrepid,

1-735

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

and resourceful spirit. The Phaeacians  
bestowed generously precious gifts  
to the long-suffering

1-738

hero, and conveyed him to his homeland  
while he fell in a strange deep sleep.

Their fast ship lit on Phorcys,

1-741

a sheltered cove in Ithaca, at last.

The Phaeacian crew put the sleeping  
hero and all his gifts

1-744

on beaches, and hurried to sail back for home.'  
'Ah, what a shock it was to me,'  
says *Odysseus*, 'when I

1-747

awoke from the weird deep sleep on a desolate  
seashore! At first, I thought that I  
was still wandering astray

1-750

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

in awful nightmares. Whatever I saw  
around me looked so strange, nothing like  
my beloved Ithaca!

1-753

The Phaeacia seemed to be a fairyland,  
and the fabulous things which seemed  
to have happened to me

1-756

must be all fantasy, merely conjured up  
by my sick mind. I feared that I  
were back in dreary Ogygia;

1-759

Proud Calypso would scorn me as a fool.  
But suddenly dense dank fogs cleared,  
and I saw Mount Neriton

1-762

looming in majestic splendour. Then I  
knew that I had come back, at last,  
to Ithaca, my dear home!'

1-765

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

‘But the prudent hero of my *Odyssey*,’  
*says Outis*, ‘desisted his ardent  
and long yearning to see  
his beloved wife and only son at his palace  
in the city; instead, disguised  
as a foreign vagrant,  
he went to see his old loyal swineherd,  
Eumaeus, who kept his herds in  
old farms remote from towns.

1-768

1-771

1-774

Eumaeus treated him kindly as an ill-  
fated stranger, and told him grave perils  
which threatened the royal  
household of his revered long-absent master,  
King Odysseus; multitudes of  
arrogant suitors courted

1-777

1-780

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

to marry his faithful wife, Queen Penelope,  
devouring the estate of King  
Odysseus. Their only heir,  
young valiant prince Telemachus, ventured  
to Pylos to inquire about the fate  
of his long-lost father.

1-783

Cruel suitors were in hiding to ambush  
his ship returning from Pylos,  
and to murder Telemachus.'

1-789

‘Ah, how terrible it was to hear such  
urgent, imminent, dire crises!’  
says *Odysseus*, ‘I was

1-792

fighting to keep myself calm in discreet poise,  
while eating out my enraged heart  
in indignant agony.

1-795

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

At that time, someone knocked at the door  
in the late hushed night. Eumaeus opened  
the locked door; a handsome

1-798

young man came in. At first sight, I knew  
that he must be my beloved son,  
Telemachus, whom I left

1-801

while he was an infant cuddling in  
the warm bosom of his mother!'

'Yes, it was Telemachus:'

1-804

*says Outis*, 'he evaded the suitors' ambush,  
and came to the remote farm kept  
by the loyal swineherd.

1-807

He sent off Eumaeus to the palace  
to impart the apprehensive  
Queen Penelope that

1-810

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

her beloved son had come back safe from his  
bold expedition to Pylos.

While they were left alone in 1-813

the farmstead, the hero revealed to his  
long-missed son who he was in truth.

The father and son 1-816

embraced each other in ineffable bliss  
as if they were reunited across  
the mystic abyss between 1-819

the dead and the quick. When their excitements  
calmed down, the prudent father and  
his valiant son plotted how 1-822

to exterminate the insolent suitors from  
their palace; disguised as a piteous  
hapless beggar leaning 1-825

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

on a crooked cane, the hero came back to  
his palace after twenty years  
of heartsick wanderings.

1-828

In humility, he begged for food and drink  
from each suitor who devoured his  
estates in his palace.

1-831

Their ringleader, vicious Antinous insulted  
the hero and hit him with footstool.

When wise Queen Penelope

1-834

heard the outrageous incident, she told  
her swineherd to bring the beggar  
to her so that she would

1-837

converse with him.' 'After twenty years of  
harsh suffering,' says *Odysseus*,  
'I sat by my beloved wife

1-840

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

who grieved for her long-lost husband; she probed  
me to tell her who I was and  
what I knew of her husband.

1-843

It broke my searing heart to tell her lies  
to conceal myself from my long-  
missed wife as if I were

1-846

a foreign tramp. How tenderly she confided  
her dire sufferings and anguishes  
to the strange beggar, as if

1-849

she knew who I was in truth; she told me  
her audacious plan to hold  
a crucial fair contest

1-852

for the bow of Odysseus, next day; whoever  
could string the bow with ease and shoot  
an arrow clean through all

1-855

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

twelve axes as King Odysseus used to do,  
she would marry him, forsaking  
her gracious house to which

1-858

she came as a young, happy and faithful bride.'  
'The hero of my story obtained,'

*says Outis*, 'his old bow—

1-861

the crucial weapon to defeat his foes  
as the consequence of the just  
contest for the bow, set for

1-864

the trial by wise brave Queen Penelope.  
First, he shot down vile Antinous,

and revealed that he was

1-867

King Odysseus returned from Troy. Awful  
terrors gripped suitors, trembling  
in the panic of dark death.

1-870

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

Only Eurymachus restored his sense and pleaded:

*“If you are truly King Odysseus,  
returned home at last, you  
are right to accuse us of what we have done:  
So much reckless outrage here in  
your palace, so much damage  
on your estate. But here lies Antinous dead.*

1-873

*He incited it all and drove us  
to crimes. His ambition  
was to lord over Ithaca as a king.*

1-879

*He had lain in wait for your son  
to cut him down. But now  
he got his punishment by his quick death  
he deserved. We beg for your mercy.  
We are your own people.*

1-882

1-885

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*Later we will repay your costs, covering  
all we ate and drank in your halls,  
and will pay full measure  
until we melt your heart. Before we have  
settled, who could blame you for your rage?"*

1-888

But the hero spoke in  
stern indignation: "No, Eurymachus!  
*Not even if you paid me all that  
could pour in from the world's  
end—no, not even then I would stay my hands  
from slaughter till all you suitors  
had paid for your vile crimes*"

1-894

*by death!"* Eventually, the furious  
hero exterminated the suitors  
with the help of his son

1-897

1-900

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

and two old servants. In spite of his bold  
heroic triumph over the suitors,  
however, prudent Queen

1-903

Penelope did not acknowledge the stranger  
as her beloved husband as yet;  
She tested him to reveal

1-906

the secret of their marriage-bed, putting  
her husband to the proof. The hero  
blazed up in stern fury,

1-909

and lashed out at his faithful wife: “*So hard,  
strange woman—your words, they cut me  
in the core!*” Then he gave proof  
of their private secret. Finally, she dissolved  
in tears of bliss, rushed to him, and  
cried out deep from her heart:

1-912

1-915

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*“Odysseus, my beloved husband! Don’t flare  
up at me, now—not you, the most  
understanding man alive!*

1-918

*It was the gods who grudged us both a life  
in each other’s arm from the heady zest  
of youth to the stoop old age.*

1-921

*In my heart of hearts, I always cringed with  
fearsome fraud might come and beguile me.*

*This world is full of the sort;*

1-924

*Recall Helen—would she have sported so in  
a stranger’s bed, if she had dreamed  
that Achaea’s sons were doomed*

1-927

*to wage war, and die to bring her back home?*

*But now, since you proved the secret  
of our bed, you’ve conquered*

1-930

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*my heart, my hard heart, at last!*" The more she  
spoke, the deeper she moved the hero.

He wept as he embraced  
his beloved wife, the soul of loyalty.

The husband and wife, once they had  
fulfilled their sacred deep

bliss of love, delighted in sharing each  
other's stories: Penelope told dire  
woes she had borne at home.

And the hero told his beloved wise wife  
of all his hard adventures. She  
listened with her warm heart.

This is a plain gist of my *Odyssey*.  
Please tell me, godlike Odysseus,  
whether I've portrayed you

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

appropriately, or not, from the old legends  
of our by-gone heroic era.'

*Here ends Homer-Outis*

1-948

*a terse summing up of his magnificent epic.*

'You are a sublime bard, my dear

Outis!' says *Odysseus*,

1-951

'You've sung of me far better than I could.'

'Ah, I forgot,' says *Outis*, 'to tell

about the hero's strange visit

1-954

to the netherworld!' 'What? Why did your hero  
visit the Hades?' asks *Odysseus*

*in perplexity*. 'Didn't you

1-957

venture to the realm of the dead to inquire

Tiresias what you must do to come

back safe to your home?' asks

1-960

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*Outis.* ‘No, my dear fanciful bard, I  
have never met Tiresias alive  
or dead,’ says *Odysseus*,

1-963

bursting in cheerful laughter, ‘and yet I  
am thrilled with great curiosity  
to hear what the fabulous

1-966

hero of your *Odyssey* did in his bold  
adventure to the mystic realm  
of the dead, and how he

1-969

came back alive from there to reach his home safe.’

‘I am embarrassed,’ says *Outis*,

‘to realize that I have  
included hokey glib fibs in my *Odyssey*.’

1-972

‘It is not real,’ says *Odysseus*,  
‘yet you may tell something

1-975

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

crucial for us to learn about the true way  
of our life. I know, Outis, that  
you are not such a base

1-978

minstrel who would cheat innocent people,  
baiting tricky traps with glib lies  
of dark era and obscure

1-981

places no one can ever know. No! What grace  
you give your words in such heroic  
songs, and what wise good sense

1-984

your story inspires in our minds! Please impart  
to me your creative imaginations  
of the esoteric realm

1-987

of the dead.' *Thus encouraged, Outis narrates*  
*the episode of his bold hero's*  
*adventure to the Hades:*

1-990

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘The hero sailed to the outer limit  
of the Great Oceans’ mystic bounds,  
where endless night prevailed  
in terrible darkness. He alighted on a strange  
shore, and performed solemn rituals  
to invoke ghosts of the dead

1-993

to appear from the depth of Erebus. The shade  
of Tiresias was the first one  
to speak: the seer foretold

1-996

the hero what harsh trials he must endure,  
and overcome to come back home safe.

Next spoke the ghost of his dear

1-1002

mother: “*Oh, my son! What compels you to  
visit, still alive, this gloom of the dead?  
It’s too hard for living*

1-1005

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*eyes to see this across the dark abyss between  
the quick and the dead. Is it from Troy  
that you just came here, still*

1-1008

*wandering long years, not seen your dear wife  
in Ithaca?” “Mother; I had to  
venture down here to hear*

1-1011

*the prophecy on my hard fate from the ghost  
of Tiresias. But tell me,  
what made you die still young?*

1-1014

*Tell me of my father, my son and my wife,”  
said the hero, weeping in grief.*

*“It was my longing for you,  
my dear son, your kind heart and wise counsel,  
gentle Odysseus, that tore away  
my sad life missing you.*

1-1020

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*Your father keeps to his modest farm, pining  
in anguish as he bears hard old age;  
His grief grows as he yearns  
for your uncertain return. No one has  
taken over your throne: Telemachus  
still holds your great estates.*

1-1023

*Penelope is still waiting for you  
in your halls, suffering her life  
an endless hardship like  
your own, wasting away the nights, and weeping  
away the days for so many years," said  
the shade of Anticleia.*

1-1029

1-1032

*Three times the hero tried to embrace his  
beloved mother, but her ghost sifted  
away, dissolving like a dream.*

1-1035

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

In painful sorrows, he cried out to her:

“*My dear mother, will you not stay  
in my arms, may we not* 1-1038

*hold each other, touch with love, and taste salty  
tears’ relief, the twinge of welling tears?*”

“*Alas, my dear son, the most  
miserable man alive to visit the dead!* 1-1041

*This is just the way of mortals  
when they die: no longer* 1-1044

*sinews bind the flesh and bones together;  
The fierce fire on pyre burns the body*

*down to ashes once life slips* 1-1047

*from the body, and the spirit, rustling,  
flits away, flown like a fleeting dream.*

*But you must arise to see* 1-1050

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*the daylight of the living, again. Go quickly!*

*But remember all these strange things*

*you saw here so that someday*

1-1053

*you may tell them to your good wife at home!"*

Thus saying, she gently faded away.'

'Dear Outis,' *interrupts*

1-1056

*Odysseus, 'your insightful imaginations*

*enthral me spellbound as if I had*

*underwent such vivid*

1-1059

*heartbreaking experiences in myself right now!*

Even if it isn't real, your vivid

*imaginative portrayal*

1-1062

*of our deep human feelings that transcend*

*the fathomless gulf between the quick*

*and the dead, is sublime.*

1-1065

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

Tell me what episodes you imagined next.'

'Lithe fabulous shades of famous  
ladies,' says *Outis*, 'paraded  
before the resourceful hero: Tyro,  
Antiope, Alcmena, Megara,  
Epicaste, Chloris, Leda,  
Iphimedeia, Phaedra, Procris,  
Ariadne, Clymene, Maera...'

'Hold it, Outis. Had these  
ladies anything to do with your hero's  
homecoming?' 'No.' 'Then let us move,'  
says *Odysseus*, 'to those ghosts  
that impelled him how to come home safe. Did  
he meet any shades of his comrades,  
who had battled in Troy?'  
1-1074  
1-1077  
1-1080

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

‘Yes,’ says *Outis*, ‘Agamemnon’s ghost came;  
He wailed out his treacherous murder  
by his vile wife and her  
paramour, sly Aegisthus. He alerted  
the hero to enter his home  
in disguise as Circe

1-1083

advised you, Odysseus. Next, came the sad  
ghost of Achilles; he hailed aloud:

“*O son of Laertes,*

1-1089

*Odysseus, clever man of endless tactics!*  
*What greater feat can your shrewd mind*  
*contrive after this bold*

1-1092

*adventure? How did you find your way down*  
*to this unseen realm where the senseless,*  
*burnt-out wraiths of mortals*

1-1095

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*make their timeless prison?" "Son of Peleus,  
Achilles," said the hero, "I  
had to venture here to  
find out how to journey home safe. I have  
not yet neared Achaea: never  
set foot on my homeland.*

1-1098

*My life has been endless miserable trials.  
But you, Achilles, none in the world  
is more blessed than you are.*

1-1101

*When you were alive, we honoured you as if  
you were a god; down here, you lord it  
over the dead in your power.*

1-1107

*So, grieve no more at dying young, Achilles!"  
"Your glib talk, smart Odysseus," said  
Achilles's shade, "may hearten*

1-1110

**Book 1: Into a Dream of Homer-Outis**

*the alive, but you know nothing of dying  
as yet! Hear me, what once so proud  
Achilles's shade says: I would  
rather slave on earth for another man,  
some humble tenant farmer who  
scrapes poor soil to keep alive,*

1-1113

*than rule down here over all the senseless dead!"'*

'I wonder, Outis, why you have  
portrayed Achilles as

1-1116

such a cowardly base fool?' asks *Odysseus*.

'Somehow Muse deep in me says so,'  
says *Outis in anguish*,

1-1122

'against the traditional veneration  
of Achilles as our bravest  
and patriotic hero.'

1-1125

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

Devout followers of Meles, the elder  
Homer—the bard of *the Iliad*—  
accuse me for blasphemy.

1-1128

But I must sing what Muse tells in me.' 'Yes,  
my brave Outis, you ought to sing  
what you truly believe in.

1-1131

Tell me who this *Homer of Iliad* is,'  
asks *Odysseus in curiosity*.  
'He is our supreme bard;

1-1134

His vibrant heroic epic, *the Iliad*,  
has inspired me to devote my life  
to follow Muse in me.

1-1137

I know not him in person: he was, they say,  
from Smyrna. Aeolian sea lapped  
his homeland where sacred

1-1140

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

stream of Meles glided in peace. Thence arose the first  
Homer, making the place blessed with  
divine songs. But in cursed

1-1143

folly, the town's men scorned such a blessing  
and contrived his lot of hard, harsh  
wanderings. Yet, willingly

1-1146

Meles endured his plight to sing sublime  
epics, bearing his dire miseries  
with humble, patient heart.

1-1149

Deep in my heart, I feel all his dire agonies  
and sheer exultant ecstasies  
in pursuing such noble

1-1152

enlightening life,' says *Outis* with ardent  
passion. 'I revere true bards who  
immortalize fleeting

1-1155

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

events into timeless songs. Did Meles  
sing about the Trojan War in his  
*Iliad*?' says *Odysseus*.

1-1158

'He sang of the heroes who had battled  
in the Trojan War. But his *Iliad*  
is not its whole chronicle.

1-1161

It begins at the final tenth year of the War;  
Homer-Meles chose to focus  
on the dire internal

1-1164

feud that ensued from arrogant Agamemnon's  
foul insult of proud Achilles,'  
says *Outis*. 'Please tell me,'

1-1167

*say Odysseus with great enthusiasm,*  
'the main points of what Meles has  
sung in his *Iliad*

1-1170

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

so that I may check whether they agree,  
or not, with whatever I may  
remember about the War.'

1-1173

‘Your testimony will be most crucial,’  
*says Outis in delight*, ‘for us  
to see the light of truth.

1-1176

A pithy gist of his long epic may be  
summed up as follows: Chryses, a priest  
of Apollo in a town

1-1179

near Troy, came to the Achaean camp; he  
pleaded for a ransom of his daughter,  
Chryseis: she had been

1-1182

seized by the Achaean invaders when  
they plundered Chryse. Agamemnon  
took her as his prized slave-

1-1185

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

mistress in his tent; he refused her father's  
plea and expelled the priest with threats  
and insults. The hapless  
dismayed priest prayed to Apollo for help.  
The god inflicted a deadly plague  
to the Achaean army.

1-1188

1-1191

Gravely alarmed, Achilles called a meeting  
of Achaean chiefs to discuss  
how to save the Achaeans  
from the calamity. When Achilles  
promised to protect his safety,  
the seer Calchas revealed  
that Agamemnon must return Chryseis to  
her father to appease Apollo.  
For the sake of his people

1-1194

1-1197

1-1200

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

Agamemnon reluctantly agreed to return  
Chryseis, although he ranked her higher  
than his wife, Clytemnestra, 1-1203  
in build, mind, upbringing, and works of hands.

Didn't you escort her safely back  
to her father?' 'Yes, I did 1-1206  
most willingly as it was right and proper,'  
says *Odysseus*. 'Then Agamemnon  
demanded that the chiefs must 1-1209  
yield their mistresses to him to compensate  
his loss of Chryseis for the sake  
of the safety of the whole 1-1212  
Achaean army. When Achilles objected  
to his demand with bold, bitter,  
and upstanding complaints, 1-1215

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

Agamemnon took away Briseis, the prize slave-mistress allotted to Achilles.

Do you confirm their feud?’

1-1218

‘Yes, of course! How can I forget such vile ugly wrangles that cost us loss of countless lives. Nestor tried to mend the enmity between enraged Achilles and arrogant Agamemnon but in vain;’ says *Odysseus*

1-1221

1-1224

*in dismay*, ‘tormented by his uncontrollable angers, Achilles proclaimed that he would sail back home with all his troops the next day. But he remained in his camp, cutting off contacts with us in isolation.’

1-1227

1-1230

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer***

‘Did you know what Achilles had plotted while  
he confined himself within his camp?’

asks *Outis*. ‘Tell me what

1-1233

Meles sang in his *Iliad*,’ says *Odysseus*.

‘Achilles cried like a spoiled brat

inciting his mother

1-1236

Thetis to avenge him, when she came up

to comfort him. He persuaded her

to go up to Olympus

1-1239

and plead with Zeus to help the Trojans

devastate the Achaean armies

while Achilles withdrew

1-1242

from battles: to pin the Achaean army

back to their ships, trap them around the bay,

and mow them down so that

1-1245

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

all could see how wrong and mad Agamemnon  
was to disgrace mighty Achilles.

Thetis went to Olympus, 1-1248

gently clasped Zeus's knees, and entreated him  
that the Achilles's wishes to be  
fulfilled: grant the Trojans

1-1251

victory after victory till the Achaean  
army would pay her son Achilles  
back the high honour he

1-1254

deserved. Reluctantly, Zeus bowed his stern  
brows to the charming nymph Thetis,  
although he knew that it

1-1257

would provoke bitter protests from Hera  
and Athena who hated the Trojans,'

*recites Outis in tune*

1-1260

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*of Meles.* ‘As for the comedy of divine  
affairs, so impressively imagined  
by your admired bard Meles,’

1-1263

*says Odysseus in pensive mood,* ‘I cannot  
comment: I really know nothing  
about the gods: who they are,

1-1266

what they think and feel, and how they will act.

But I can attest the grim facts:

Following the ugly

1-1269

shameful feud, the Trojans overpowered us;  
They pinned our army back to our ships;  
Trapped us round the bay;

1-1272

And they mowed us down. The Trojans led by  
Hector were almost to burn down  
our ships to cut off our life-

1-1275

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

line for returning home!' 'Your firm testimony  
of those crucial grim facts is, indeed,  
of vital importance;'

1-1278

*says Outis elated in great excitements,*  
'When his good, conscientious friend  
Patroclus persuaded

1-1281

Achilles to send him into battle,  
leading the fresh Myrmidons troops  
and wearing the Achilles's

1-1284

armour to rescue the dire desperate  
Achaean army, arrogant  
Achilles agreed, vaunting:

1-1287

*"Fight disaster off the ships, Patroclus,*  
*fling yourself at the Trojans*  
*full force before they gut*

1-1290

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*our hulls with leaping fire and tear away  
the day of our return. But you must  
turn back soon as you bring*

1-1293

*the light of victory to the ships. Let the rest  
of them cut themselves to pieces  
on the plain! I beg to gods:*

1-1296

*May not one of all these Trojans could flee  
his death, nor any Achaeans either;  
But only we could stride from*

1-1299

*the slaughter so that we could bring the Troy's  
sacred crown of towers toppling down  
around us—you and I alone!"*

1-1302

Those who claim to be the proud descendants  
of Achilles have exulted that  
he had been glorified

1-1305

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

in the *Iliad* as the greatest warrior  
and honourable patriot  
in our past glorious

1-1308

era of godlike heroes. The Muse in me,  
however, points out that Meles  
portrayed Achilles as

1-1311

an obsessive, selfish, over-powering,  
spoiled brat who was a blatant traitor,  
not an honest patriot,

1-1314

to the Achaeans army; he betrayed  
his fellow comrades-in-arms to be  
sacrificed for the sake

1-1317

of his vile vainglory. Our real patriot  
was the conscientious hero  
Patroclus! He rescued

1-1320

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

the hopeless fearful Achaean army  
at such dire critical dangers  
in the Trojan War, meanwhile

1-1323

crazy, cruel Achilles exulted with  
awful death throes of his fellow  
comrades-in-arms.' *Thus expounds*

1-1326

*Outis what he believes in with resolute  
conviction.* 'I do entirely  
agree with you, my upright

1-1329

Outis! I revere Patroclus as our true  
patriot who saved us with his  
impeccable conscience

1-1332

and noble courage,' says *Odysseus in  
earnest.* *Thus encouraged, Outis  
keeps on confiding his*

1-1335

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

*honest views:* ‘When Patroclus met his death  
at a combat with Hector who  
defended Troy from the surprise  
attacks by the Myrmidons led by  
Patroclus, suddenly the target  
of Achilles’s crazy

1-1338

personal hatred changed from Agamemnon  
to Hector. In a weird fight against  
Hector, Achilles managed

1-1341

to kill him with disgraceful deceptions  
of Athena so ungodly  
portrayed by Meles

1-1344

in *the Iliad*. Even after his unfair  
slay of Hector, the mind-sick hatred  
of Achilles did not

1-1347

1-1350

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

abate, at all; he abused the Hector's corpse  
in the morbid frenzy of hatred  
like a brute. Indignant

1-1353

gods compelled him to yield the Hector's body  
for a proper burial in Troy.

The brave, noble King Priam,

1-1356

heavy in old age and ineffable throes  
of agonies, came alone to plead with  
the killer of his many sons

1-1359

for the ransom of his beloved Hector's body.

*The Iliad* ends with the funeral  
of the true patriotic

1-1362

defender of his country—noble Hector.

I'm deeply perplexed why Meles  
chose to focus on such

1-1365

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

a wild man—Achilles—gravely sick in  
mind in his *Iliad*, obscuring  
other crucial heroes

1-1368

and heroines in the vast scope of the Trojan  
War!' 'My dear poet Outis,' says

*Odysseus beaming subtle*

1-1371

*smiles*, 'how could I fathom the fanciful minds  
of poets? Meles has every right,  
I think, to choose whatever

1-1374

he wants to focus on in his poem.

Don't you agree with me?' 'Yes, I do!

I revere Homer-Meles

1-1377

as our supreme poet who portrayed his  
characters so superbly vivid  
and impressive. He adapted

1-1380

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

confusing legends of the Trojan War  
merely as the background on which  
he depicted so masterly  
complex emotions of his characters—gods  
as well as human heroes—in  
his powerful epic,

1-1383

with the confusing title of *the Iliad*  
as if it were about Troy. But what  
Homer-Meles wrought  
is a poem about the murderous rage  
of crazy bumptious Achilles  
that caused grim deaths to countless  
victims, Achaeans as well as Trojans.

1-1386

The more I peruse *the Iliad*,  
the deeper I get confused

1-1392

1-1395

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

in dire dark perplexity.' *Thus confesses*  
*Outis his anguished frustrations.*

'Tell me what troubles you 1-1398

so deep,' says *Odysseus* in sympathetic  
tone. 'I admire his overpowering  
poetic feats in portraying 1-1401

Achilles as a complex character,'  
says *Outis*, 'but I feel utterly  
lost in perceiving what 1-1404

meaningful messages Homer-Meles intended  
to impart in his abstruse *Iliad*.

O my wise forefather, 1-1407

Odysseus, you have bravely fought through the long,  
horrible, and cruel Trojan War.

Please relate to me 1-1410

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

the whole story of the real Trojan War as  
you have experienced in your person  
such that I may sing its true

1-1413

account to humanity. What were the real  
causes of the Trojan War? I suspect  
that the alleged Helen's

1-1416

elopement with Paris must be an absurd  
romantic pretext made up by  
the cunning Atreidae

1-1419

to justify their invasion of Troy, or  
an amusing hoax, conjured up  
by later sly minstrels

1-1422

to pander the superstitious multitudes.

I wish to know what happened in  
the first nine years of the War,

1-1425

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

which were left evasively unsung by Meles  
in dark enigma. You knew  
Achilles in person.

1-1428

Please tell me how he met with his own death  
after killing so many men in  
his murderous, wild rage.

1-1431

Please relate to me how the Achaeans  
managed to sack the invincible  
Troy. I heard that it was

1-1434

the strategy of your brilliant brain,  
not the strong arms of Patroclus,  
Ajax, or Achilles,

1-1437

that brought the victory to the Achaeans.

Inspire me to sing the real account  
of the whole Trojan War

1-1440

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

as you have experienced, endured, and overcome for humanity to learn its truth.'

*Thus Outis entreats to*

1-1443

*Odysseus with resolute determination  
and ardent passion.* 'There are few  
things that we can really know,'

1-1446

*says Odysseus in deep pensive voice,  
'and nothing is more mysterious  
and unfathomable,*

1-1449

I think, than the human minds. Who am I  
to tell the true story of the awful,  
complex, and confusing

1-1452

Trojan War? Yet I will try to relate  
to you what I can remember  
with pangs of acute pains

1-1455

**Book 1: *Into a Dream of Homer-Outis***

and throes of agonies, to bring forth its truth  
for humanity to reflect on.'

*Beneath a sacred tree*

1-1458

*towering high up the boundless clear sky,*

*Odysseus and Outis nestle*

*down at ease. Resourceful*

1-1461

*warrior Odysseus turns into a bard*

*singing from his own experiences:*

*The great poet who wrought*

1-1464

*the Odyssey becomes his sole unique*

*audience, elated to hear what*

*Muse-Odysseus will impart.*

1-1467

*Hence deepens this revealing dream of Homer-*

*Outis in his mystic inner realm*

*of creative imaginations.*

1-1470

## **Book 2**

*The Exile of Odysseus  
with Penelope*

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘You ask me to relate  
how I’d fought through the Trojan War,  
and striven to bear up its dire awful wakes. 2-3

Well then, what shall I tell  
first, and what to save to the end?’  
*says Odysseus in a pensive solemn tone.* 2-6

‘Sing for me first, my Muse-  
Odysseus, what happened after  
your eventual return to your beloved 2-9  
home,’ *says Homer-Outis.*

‘Your good felicitous comedy  
of Odysseus’s homecoming turned into 2-12  
a bitter tragedy  
of his fateful life-long exile,’  
*says Odysseus, grieving anew in agonies.* 2-15

## **Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope***

‘You, exiled for life?’ *cries*  
*Outis in shock*, ‘how so and why?  
Tell me all, bearing your heartsick anguishes 2-18  
to bring dark things to light.’  
‘So be it. When we purged our house  
from the foul pestilence of vile suitors, 2-21  
I urged Telemachus  
to send out his heralds to call  
for all people of Ithaca to come 2-24  
to an urgent assembly;  
I wanted to proclaim my return  
from Troy and resumption of my rightful  
kingship of Ithaca 2-27  
after twenty years of absence.  
Quickly Ithacans gathered for the meeting. 2-30

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Holding my sceptre, spear,  
and great bow, prudent Telemachus  
led me disguised as a strange humble tramp      2-33  
to the great assembly.

“*Telemachus, why do you summon  
us here, again?*” asked the old sage Aegyptius,      2-36

“*Have you an urgent news  
to inform us? Are our soldiers  
coming home, or enemies invading us?*”      2-39

*Who is this stranger clad  
in tattered rags? Why do you bring  
him with you to our solemn assembly?*”      2-42

“*Hear me, dear Ithacans!*”  
spoke Telemachus, “*here is Odysseus,  
my noble father and your fatherly king!*”      2-45

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Stunned in awe, the people  
remained speechless in hushed silence.

Eventually, the wise old seer Halitherses  
broke the silence, speaking:

*“Godlike resourceful Odysseus!*

*All has come to pass for you as I foresaw:*

2-48

*At last you have come home  
alive alone from Troy after twenty  
long years since you left us, overcoming dire*

2-51

*trials of the Trojan War  
and sea voyages; all your comrades lost;  
Yourself unrecognized in your homeland.*

2-54

*Speak to us, revealing  
your person disguised in rags.”*

Telemachus handed me my royal sceptre,

2-57

2-60

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

urging me to speak to  
the astonished people in wonder.

“*My dear Ithacans,*” said I, “*here stands your* 2-63  
*long lost Odysseus, pleading*  
*for your pardon and sympathy.*

*My brave comrades from Ithaca, joint with* 2-66  
*other Achaean armies,*  
*finally conquered powerful Troy*  
*after ten years of dreadful hard combats.* 2-69

*We survived to cheer up*  
*and celebrate our great victory.*

*But on our way home from Troy, we suffered* 2-72  
*fatal calamities:*

*They perished at sea, leaving me*  
*as a lone survivor of awful shipwrecks.* 2-75

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Bearing countless dire woes  
for ten more years, I strove to find  
my way through gory fights and stormy seas  
to land on my beloved  
homeland, our gracious Ithaca!"*

2-78

*"Welcome home, our godlike fatherly king,  
Odysseus!" said Mentor,  
my loyal friend-in-arms, "you sacked  
mighty Troy, achieving the greatest glory  
for all Achaeans. How  
much we missed for so long your wise,  
kind, and prudent reign of our Ithaca!"*

2-84

*We plead you to restore  
justice, civility, and peace."*

2-87

The whole Ithacans welcomed me in awe

2-90

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

as if greeting their lost  
dear father, miraculously comes  
back to life from the unseen realm of death.

2-93

*“Hail our heroic king,  
Odysseus,” said wise Aegyptius,  
“what a wondrous marvel to behold you!*

2-96

*Tell us why you’ve appeared  
to us, as if you were a strange  
foreign beggar? From where, how, and when did  
you come back to your own  
kingdom in such mysterious ways?”*

*“The Phaeacian king, generous Alcinous,* 2-99  
*sent me on their fast ship,”*

“said I, “crossing over vast deep seas.

*I landed on the cove of sacred Phorcys* 2-105

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*a few days ago. A lone  
helpless stranger utterly lost  
in his own country—I wandered in awe  
and deep thoughts to find out  
the proper way to get back home.* 2-108

*In a rugged pass I came across a man;  
It turned out to be my old  
loyal swineherd, Eumaeus.* 2-111

*I learned from him grave dangers at my home,  
far worse than all I had  
borne through lethal wars and stormy seas:  
Foul plagues by vile suitors of my chaste wife,  
wise, prudent Penelope.* 2-114

*You saw how they'd plundered our house  
in such shameless insidious greed and lusts.* 2-117

2-120

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*But did you know how they  
had plotted to murder Telemachus  
on his way sailing back home from Pylos,  
after braving for news  
of his long-lost father afar Troy?*

2-123

*I thank gods for saving my beloved son*

2-126

*much more than my wasted life!"*

*"Arise, my brave, righteous Ithacans!"*

said Mentor in indignation, "we must

2-129

*exterminate those rash*

*evil suitors from our homeland.*

*Are they still in your palace debauching?"*

2-132

*"Still in my hall," said I,*

*"but all asleep forever in death!"*

Shocked in surprise, the people fell speechless

2-135

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

for a while. Then the suitors'  
families erupted in sudden  
wild commotions of sorrows and angers

2-138

against me. With resolute  
determination I declared  
to the Assembly: “*It is my solemn*

2-141

*duty as your just king*  
*to uphold justice, keep safety,*  
*and restore our mutual trust and amity;*

2-144

*From the sunrise tomorrow,*  
*the suitors' families shall come*  
*to my palace to take the bodies of their sons*

2-147

*or kin: each to his own*  
*home in Ithaca, or ferry home*  
*overseas by ships, with due respect and orderly*

2-150

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*manners so that they can  
carry out the proper burials  
for their beloved sons and kin. I appoint*

2-153

*Mentor as commander  
of our loyal soldiers who shall  
keep order and peace within, and protect  
Ithaca from possible  
invasions from outside.” “I shall  
carry out your wise and timely edicts,*

2-156

*our great king Odysseus!”*  
said valiant Mentor. At this point  
Eumaeus rushed in, and said: “*Your noble  
father, our old King Laertes,  
is gravely ill. He wishes to see you  
before he passes away!*” Immediately I

2-159

2-162

2-165

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

ended the assembly, and  
hastened myself with Telemachus  
to see my father at his remote farmstead.

2-168

When we entered his old  
farmhouse, my dear motherly nurse,  
Eurykleia, greeted us; then I saw

2-171

Penelope, weeping  
by my frail father asleep on his  
plain deathbed. Searing tears welled up deep from

2-174

my heart, bursting with intense  
ineffable emotions. At last,  
my father opened his eyes and gently whispered

2-177

in a faint trembling voice:  
“*Where is my son, Odysseus?*” “*Here*  
*I am, my dear father!*” cried I, embracing

2-180

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

him with my loving heart.

Looking at me, he beamed gentle,  
mysterious smiles, and whispered in a trance:

2-183

*“Welcome back to Ithaca,  
my brave, upright, resourceful son!”*

*“I bore up, and overcame hard harsh trials  
of bloody wars and stormy seas  
as you had brought me up to bear,  
my wise, insightful, and loving father!”*

2-189

    said I, remembering  
    our deeply cherished memories.

*“When Nestor returned to Pylos from Troy,  
he attested solemnly  
that the splendid invincible Troy  
had been succumbed only to your ingenious*

2-192

2-195

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*strategy, my Odysseus,  
having withstood fierce Achaean  
attacks for long hard years. Grand tasks well done, 2-198  
my beloved son!” “Your good  
friend, wise Nestor, and I shared with  
one same mind throughout the dire Trojan war,” 2-201  
said I in humility.  
“Entrust Ithaca to your son:  
A great whale can’t live in a small lagoon. 2-204  
Be aware of the anger  
of the slain suitors’ families.  
Soon you must leave for your right home: the whole 2-207  
world of humanity  
to explore with your wise trusty wife,  
learning human nature to the very end...” 2-210*

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

That was the very last breath,  
my insightful wise father breathed out  
to me,' *says Odysseus in a pensive mood.*

2-213

'King Laertes seems to me,'  
*says Outis in awe and reverence,*  
'a mysterious hermit-sage. How did he  
bring you up as your father?

2-216

Why did he abdicate his kingship  
to you, and retired as a humble farmer  
who worked so diligently  
on his modest farm, shunning from  
complex human affairs? Why did he choose  
to lead the simple life  
of a hermit rather than to seek  
the power and fame of an ambitious king?"

2-219

2-222

2-225

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘My father was a man  
of sincere conscience and strong will-  
power;’ says *Odysseus*, ‘he disciplined himself      2-228  
to endure and overcome  
hardships: through actual experiences  
I learned from him to be the *Son of Pains*.      2-231

He provided me with the best  
training: in martial arts, sailing,  
debating, reasoning, and problem-solving.      2-234

He encouraged me to be  
independent from an early age;  
I visited many places as far away as Crete      2-237  
and Sicily in my youth.’

‘It seems to me that your wise father,’  
says *Outis with admiration*, ‘prepared      2-240

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

you well for your unique,  
ingenious, and heroic deeds  
in the Trojan War, as if he'd foreseen it! 2-243

What was his thoughtful view  
about the Achaean invasion  
of Troad?' 'Before I decided to join in 2-246  
the Trojan campaign, I had  
consulted with my prudent father  
for his advice. He warned me that the war 2-249  
to conquer powerful Troad  
must be a highly risky and hard  
task for us. But for the future of all 2-252  
Achaeans to prosper,  
such a bold, massive expansion  
of our territory might be necessary. 2-255

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

He questioned seriously  
Agamemnon's ability and  
integrity to lead such an audacious  
and difficult campaign. 2-258

He believed that I was much better  
qualified for the hard task; he hoped that  
the Achaean chiefs would  
eventually choose me as their supreme  
commander, despite the small contingent 2-261  
which Ithaca could afford  
to contribute to the massive  
invasion of Troad. Thus encouraged, 2-264  
I asked him to resume  
his kingship of Ithaca, but  
he refused it,' says *Odysseus*. 'I'm puzzled 2-267  
2-270

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

why King Laertes declined  
your reasonable request?’ asks *Outis*.

‘He insisted that, in my absence, my queen  
Penelope should rule

Ithaca,’ says *Odysseus*. ‘How did  
Mentor handle the suitors’ families  
when they came to your palace  
to take their sons’ or kin’s bodies  
for funeral? Was there any insurrection  
against you?’ asks *Outis*.

‘All bodies were taken by them  
in proper and orderly manners within  
the same day as directed  
by Mentor without any disturbance.

After thoroughly cleaning the palace,

2-273

2-276

2-279

2-282

2-285

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Mentor came to see me  
at my father's farm. When he realized  
that my father had passed away, he said in tears: 2-288

“*Our King Laertes was  
a unique man: hermit-sage who  
transcended the pride of vain fame and the greed  
of political power!*” 2-291

“*Thank you for your loyalty and friendship.  
I embrace you, Mentor, as my true brother,*” 2-294  
said I deep from my heart.’

‘Please tell me what happened next in  
your eventful moving life,’ says *Outis*. 2-297

‘Shortly after my father’s  
stately funeral,’ says *Odysseus*,  
‘serious illness overwhelmed my exhausted body; 2-300

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

It got worse each day for  
a half year, despite the loving care  
of my dear wife and medical treatments.

2-303

One day, wise perceptive  
Penelope spoke in a tender voice:

*“I feel, my beloved Odysseus, that something* 2-306

*grave had been troubling*  
*your mind, which in turn weakened your*  
*sturdy body. Let us share our pains and troubles* 2-309

*as well as bliss and blessings*  
*in this fleeting life.” “I feel like*  
*a ghost of dead Odysseus,” confessed I,* 2-312

*“loafing astray in a strange*  
*isle—Ithaca, and frightening*  
*its people with uneasy fears. You are the only* 2-315

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*one, my wise beloved wife,  
who keeps me alive with your true love!"*

*"You are the wisest and bravest Achaean*

2-318

*who achieved the triumph*

*over Troy, returning home in glory*

*after long hard struggles, my Odysseus!"*

2-321

*said she to cheer me up.*

*"The cruel Trojan War taught me*

*utter futility of man's vainglory:*

2-324

*Bitterly I regret*

*that I was obliged to combat*

*in the vile War. We killed so many innocent*

2-327

*Trojans, and destroyed Troy*

*down to desolate ruins. I also feel*

*guilty to have come back home as a sole*

2-330

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*survivor, losing all  
my comrades-in-arms who had sailed  
with me to Troy. Furthermore, I repent  
that I have killed all suitors  
indiscriminately; some may be  
innocent victims of my overdoing in  
upheaval of fierce fury.* 2-333

*How could I rule the Ithacans  
as their wise fatherly king after killing  
so many their able sons?* 2-339

*I wish to abdicate my kingship  
as a just punishment of my odious self!"* 2-342

Thus I confided to wise  
Penelope the throes of agonies  
that had been tormenting my heavy heart. 2-345

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*“I will follow you, Odysseus,  
to wherever you would lead me!*

*I revere and admire the nobility  
of your lofty conscience,”*

*said Penelope, “let us retire  
to the farm of your late noble father;*

*We will lead a simple life  
in peace, following his ideal  
of a wise hermit-farmer. Telemachus*

*has come of age; let him  
be in charge of all your estates.*

*I pray that the Assembly of Ithacans  
will acclaim Telemachus*

*to succeed you as their new king!”*

I followed Penelope’s sensible advice

2-348

2-351

2-354

2-357

2-360

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

with loyal Mentor's able  
assistance: When Telemachus was  
acclaimed as the new king, Penelope  
and I retired to the farm.

2-363

Gradually my health and spirit  
improved by loving cares of my devoted  
wife: we toiled hard on soil  
with fresh zest of new life. How happy  
we were to labour and rest together

2-366

in a simple pastoral  
life at peace! Heartbreaking agonies  
of our long wretched separation during  
our heady youth gradually  
melted away, and ardent hopes uplifted  
our rejuvenated hearts in deep love. Our hard

2-369

2-372

2-375

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

works were rewarded with fruitful  
harvests of grains; our herds of farm  
animals grew steadily, replenishing  
the lost stocks, devoured by  
the insolent greedy suitors.

2-378

Eventually, civility and peace were restored

2-381

in Ithaca; the people  
worked hard for fair prosperity.

Telemachus attained quickly sound skills

2-384

in governing people  
with courage and prudence. He married  
graceful lithe Polycaste, the Nestor's youngest  
daughter; in due time, our  
bright, handsome grandson, Arcesius,  
was born, delighting our hearts with sincere thanks. 2-390

2-387

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

A sad event was the death  
of my dear old nurse, Eurykleia.

In heartfelt love and heartbreaking sorrow,

2-393

we held a stately  
funeral for her as if she

were my beloved mother.' 'Why did you pay,'

2-396

*interrupts Outis*, 'such  
an unusual honour for her? Wasn't she  
a slave woman, purchased by your father?'

2-399

'Yes. All through her life, she  
took care of us with motherly  
love and devotion. Most of all, Eurykleia

2-402

opened my blind eyes to see  
the true beauty of intelligent  
Penelope in my passionate youth.'

2-405

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘How much I love to hear  
the story of your perfect match!  
Please tell me,’ says *Outis* with great excitements, 2-408  
‘how it happened for you  
to find Penelope, and fall  
in love with her. Didn’t you go to the Tyndareus’s 2-411  
palace as a suitor  
of his daughter, Helen?’ ‘Yes, I  
went there with Eurycleia as one of 2-414  
my entourage. While I was  
vying with many other outstanding  
contenders for Helen’s hand, she made deft, 2-417  
discerning, private contacts  
with the young noble ladies there.’  
‘Who were your prominent rivals?’ asks *Outis*. 2-420

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘Menestheus from Athens,  
Ajax from Salamis, Diomedes  
from Argo, Idomeneus from Crete,  
Patroclus from Phthia,  
and many other renowned heroes  
from all over the Achaea,’ says *Odysseus.* 2-423

‘How about Menelaus?’  
‘His brother Agamemnon came from  
Mycenae as Menelaus’s emissary;  
not as a suitor, since  
he had already married Helen’s  
elder sister, Clytemnestra,’ says *Odysseus.* 2-429 2-432

‘I see. Now, please tell me  
how Eurycleia helped you marry  
graceful, wise Penelope,’ says *Outis.* 2-435

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘She told me that she had  
met with a beautiful modest  
young lady with brilliant intelligence:

2-438

Penelope, a daughter  
of King Icarius who was  
the younger brother of King Tyndareus.

2-441

I was curious to see  
the mysterious young lady;  
Tactfully, Eurykleia disguised me

2-444

as a woman so that  
I could see Penelope playing  
with Helen and other young noble ladies  
in their cozy sheltered  
courtyards. At the very first glance  
of Penelope, I fell deeply in love with her.

2-447

2-450

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Hence I told Tyndareus  
that I gave up my wooing for  
the coveted Helen's hand as I realized  
that I could not afford  
the luxury of living that Helen  
might need and deserve. Then I politely  
asked him to help me meet  
King Icarius so that I would plead  
him for the hand of his daughter, Penelope.

2-453

2-456

2-459

Icarius kindly received  
me, and probed wisely to find out  
what kind of man I was. Then he told me  
that I must win the heart  
of Penelope for her hand.

2-462

While other suitors of Helen revelled,

2-465

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

boasting their outstanding  
merits at lavish daily feasts  
in Tyndareus's palace, I spent quiet  
time with Penelope  
rapt in simple bliss of pure love.

2-468

Somehow Agamemnon was annoyed by  
my absence from their feasts;  
He urged Tyndareus to bring me back.

2-471

When I joined with the suitors at their feasts,

2-474

Tyndareus made a solemn  
proposal, saying: “*Godlike heroes*  
*vying with each other for the hand*  
*of my dear daughter Helen,*  
*hear me what my heart urges to say:*  
*It is extremely difficult for me*

2-477

2-480

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*to choose one among you as  
you are all outstanding in such  
different ways; I fear that whomever*

2-483

*I may eventually choose,  
it would offend the pride of other  
renowned suitors and may cause dire conflicts.*

2-486

*To prevent such mishaps  
I propose that all of you swear  
oaths to the gods that you shall defend Helen  
and her chosen husband  
from any conflict. Unless all suitors  
swear such an oath to the gods, I will not  
make my final decision.”*

2-489

Then Agamemnon spoke with great  
enthusiasm: “*Wise King Tyndareus! I*

2-495

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*deem your proposal  
as a divine decree. I hereby  
swear such an oath to all gods for myself* 2-498  
*as well as on behalf  
of Menelaus; we shall fight even  
to death to defend Helen and her husband* 2-501  
*from any vile transgressors.”*

Then all other suitors swore solemn  
oaths to gods following the Agamemnon’s 2-504  
proud lead. When it came to  
my turn to swear, I announced that  
I had withdrawn from wooing Helen; hence 2-507  
such an oath was not proper  
for me. In anger, Agamemnon  
accused me as a cowardly spoiler 2-510

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

of their sacred accord,  
and all other suitors persuaded  
me to swear the oath. The following day

2-513

Tyndareus announced his choice:  
Menelaus! All suitors were shocked  
to hear it except haughty Agamemnon.'

2-516

'I wonder why Tyndareus  
chose Menelaus,' asks *Outis*, 'who  
didn't even bother to come to see him.'

2-519

Was Helen happy to be  
married to Menelaus?' 'The suitors  
guessed that Agamemnon manipulated  
Tyndareus with bribes and threats.

2-522

As for Helen, I heard later from  
Penelope that she lamented bitterly

2-525

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

when she learned her worst match.'

'How weird Helen's fate was—just like  
Aphrodite was wedded to Hephaestus!

2-528

Did Agamemnon take  
Helen with him to Mycenae  
to marry her to Menelaus?' *asks Outis.*

2-531

'Yes. Soon after their marriage,  
Helen and Menelaus moved to  
Lacedaemon; they lived at Helos, before

2-534

Helen sailed away from there  
to Troy with Paris,' *says Odysseus.*

'I wonder why Tyndareus abdicated

2-537

his throne to Menelaus,  
instead of his renowned twin sons,  
Castor and Polydeuces. Do you know why?'

2-540

## **Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope***

asks Outis. ‘It puzzled me, too. I heard confusing rumours: Shortly after Helen had left for Troy,

2-543

Castor and Polydeuces  
quarrelled with their cousins, Idas  
and Lynceus; somehow all four were killed  
during an odd, weird fight.

2-546

Some suspected that Agamemnon  
lured them with their lovers, and incited them  
to compete till their deaths.

2-549

A month after their enigmatic deaths  
Agamemnon came with Menelaus to see  
Tyndareus in Sparta;  
They were outraged that Helen had  
eloped with Paris to Troy in the blatant

2-552

2-555

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

violation of the sacred  
law of matrimony sanctified by  
Hera, and the code of honour between  
the host and the guest, imposed  
by Zeus. They claimed that Zeus  
and Hera sent them to urge Tyndareus  
to raise a mighty united  
Achaean army, and lead it  
to attack, and destroy Troy as stern divine  
punishment. They must bring  
Helen back from Troy to obey  
the solemn command of Zeus as well as  
to restore the pride of  
the whole Achaeans, insulted by  
insolent Paris.’ ‘The Atreidae made

2-558

2-561

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2-570

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

very pressing and taxing  
demand,' *interrupts Outis*,  
'to Tyndareus. How did he respond to them?' 2-573

'Overwhelmed by the tragic death  
of his sons and the shameful loss  
of Helen, dispirited Tyndareus faltered 2-576  
in dire hapless despairs.

Then ambitious Agamemnon claimed  
that Zeus had ordered him to raise armed forces, 2-579  
culled from the whole Achaea,  
and lead the invincible forces  
to invade and destroy Troy, and bring back 2-582  
Helen home. When helpless  
Tyndareus agreed with such bold plans,  
cunning ambitious Atreidae demanded him 2-585

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

to abdicate his kingdom  
to Menelaus so that he could  
command the army of Lacedaemon 2-588  
as their new king. In dire  
despairs, Tyndareus was compelled  
to surrender his kingdom to Menelaus.' 2-591

‘How enlightening to hear,’  
*says Outis*, ‘what you have revealed;  
It clarifies the perplexing confusions 2-594  
I inherited from countless  
unknown minstrels through bygone ages.  
According to what I surmised from them, 2-597  
you were initially  
very reluctant to join in  
the campaign against Troy. Is this a false rumour?’ 2-600

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘It’s true; I did not want,’  
says *Odysseus*, ‘to be ruled by  
arrogant Agamemnon who boasted that he had  
been commanded by Zeus  
to lead the whole Achaean armies.

I tried to ignore his urgent call to arms 2-603

pretending as if I  
suffered lunacy. Agamemnon sent  
his envoys to coerce me to join them; 2-609  
Sly Paramedes, one  
of his envoys, seized our infant son  
from Penelope by force, and put me 2-612  
on trial to reveal

my pretense of lunacy. As Agamemnon  
accused me as an unpatriotic coward, 2-615

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

I had to prove myself  
what kind of man I was in truth.'

'Now, I see what happened. It has been 2-618

very perplexing darkly  
enigma to me,' says *Outis*,  
'how Agamemnon seized the supreme power 2-621

of the newly gathered  
Achaean armies in spite of  
his ineptitude.' 'He was an extremely 2-624

ambitious and cunning  
schemer; somehow he won over Nestor  
of Pylos,' says *Odysseus*, 'to help him 2-627

as a kingmaker by  
persuading other Achaean  
chieftains to join with the Atreidae to 2-630

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

conquer rich fertile Troad  
as very profitable campaign  
as well as to earn the glorious fame  
as patriotic heroes.'

2-633

'Was fame that enticed Achilles  
to join in the Trojan War? He was too  
young to be a suitor  
of Helen's hand; thus not obliged  
to the oath imposed by Tyndareus,' says

2-636

2-639

*Outis.* 'It was Nestor  
who persuaded Peleus to send  
Achilles to Troy,' says *Odysseus*, 'to win  
the fame of glorious  
hero, despite the reluctance  
of his divine mother, Thetis, who foresaw

2-642

2-645

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

the doom of his early death.

As for the vain oath imposed to  
the suitors by Tyndareus, no one took it  
seriously, even though

Agamemnon tried to invoke it,  
in vain, to be obeyed by the suitors;

They felt that they'd been cheated.'

'If so, I wonder what had inspired  
the huge horde of hundred thousand Achaeans,'

asks *Outis*, 'to join in  
such an audacious campaign against  
Troy?' 'It was the most exciting adventure,'  
says *Odysseus*, 'for us to sail  
across the vast seas to conquer the great  
prosperous kingdom of Troad and take it over.'

2-648

2-651

2-654

2-657

2-660

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

The Achaean population  
outgrew their narrow strips of poor soil;  
Unless we would succeed in expanding  
to fertile larger regions,  
we were doomed to starve in famine.

2-663

The alleged abduction of Helen by  
the Trojan prince, Paris,  
was a pretentious romantic  
pretext for the Achaeans to launch  
their most adventurous and  
exciting campaign to vanquish  
and colonize wealthy and powerful Troad.'

2-669

‘Now, I see the real causes,’  
*claims Outis*, ‘of the Trojan War!  
Please solve for me one more puzzle; at the end

2-672

2-675

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

of Homer-Meles' *Iliad*,

Helen wept for Hector's death, saying:

*"Hector, dearest to me of all my lord's*

2-678

*rrothers! Paris—my lord*

*magnificent like a god—brought me*

*here to Troy. O, I wish I had died before*

2-681

*that day! But this is now*

*the twentieth year for me since I sailed*

*here, forsaking my homeland; yet never*

2-684

*once did I hear from you*

*a blame or a taunt. But if someone*

*else in your royal palace would curse me,*

2-687

*you would restrain them with*

*wise words and win them for me. Thus*

*in the same breath, I mourn for my wretched self*

2-690

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*as well as for you, my great,  
valiant, noble, and godlike Hector!"*

This moving confession by Helen points out

2-693

that it took ten long years

for the Achaean armies to

invade Troad since Paris had taken Helen

2-696

from Lacedaemon to Troy,

and then another ten more years

for them to sack Troy and retrieve Helen

2-699

eventually, unless Meles

was confused with timing in his

*Iliad.*’ ‘Yes, it took ten hectic years

2-702

for the Atreidae and Nestor,’

*says Odysseus, ‘to persuade*

the horde of Achaean chieftains with diverse

2-705

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

aims and interests to join  
in such a bold adventurous  
campaign, and to prepare for it; building 2-708  
a thousand strong warships,  
culling and training a hundred  
thousand men to sail over hazardous seas, 2-711  
and fight against the strong  
Trojan army to conquer rich Troad.'

'Now, I realize that it must have taken 2-714  
long demanding efforts,'  
*says Outis*, 'to launch such a bold,  
massive military campaign afar over the open sea. 2-717  
As for the first nine years  
of the ten-year-long Trojan War,  
Meles left it unsung in his *Iliad*. 2-720

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Would you please relate to me  
what happened in the first nine years.'

'It brings me dire pangs of guilt and shame to  
recall what we did;' says

*Odysseus in anguish*, 'Agamemnon  
led the massive horde of Achaean armies

to ransack peaceful towns  
nestled along long seacoasts of Troad  
with impressive, expert, cunning tactics,

and plundered their rich stores  
of grains, herds of animals, and precious  
treasures. We took their women to serve us  
as captive slave-mistresses.

Agamemnon claimed that he had been  
inspired by Zeus which particular Trojan

2-723

2-726

2-729

2-732

2-735

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

village to invade  
at a given time, and what to take  
from it at a given raid; with efficient  
tactics, Agamemnon sustained  
his systematic pillage of over  
fifty rich towns in the easy first nine years.' 2-738

‘I am shocked to hear,’ says  
*Outis*, ‘that the Achaean armies  
behaved like shameless pirates. I wonder  
why the Trojans tolerated  
such blatant, harsh, sustained abuses  
by the Achaean armies for so long?’ 2-741

‘It was due to the very  
basic tactics,’ says *Odysseus*,  
‘of sheer overwhelming number; the huge horde 2-744

2-747

2-750

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

of fully armed Achaean  
soldiers outnumbered the entire  
population of each invaded Trojan town 2-753  
by at least ten, and in  
most cases, by thirty times. The first nine  
years of the Trojan War was not a war, at all, 2-756  
but brutal greedy piracy.'

'What did happen to the pursuit  
of patriotic honour, winning great fame, 2-759  
and retrieval of Helen?'

asks *Outis in dismay*. 'All gone  
with the winds of madness; most Achaeans 2-762  
exulted in becoming  
proud greedy robbers of the helpless  
Trojans. They worshiped Agamemnon as if 2-765

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

he were the very god who  
had led the Achaean armies  
to obtain the luxury of affluence  
and the upstart power  
over their newly oppressed people.'

2-768

*Outis discerns the anguish of remorse  
and shame in Odysseus.*

2-771

'I am sorry that I've diverted  
you from relating your eventful life  
after you had restored  
justice, amity, and prosperity  
in Ithaca. I wish to know who dared  
to expel you from your  
Ithaca. Why did you suffer  
a terrible life-long exile?' 'It was

2-774

2-777

2-780

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

the harsh revenge for slain  
suitors to me by their enraged  
families,' says *Odysseus*. 'How did they  
compel you to yield?' asks  
*Outis*. 'One day in my odd dream,'  
says *Odysseus*, 'the ghost of Agamemnon  
appeared; he upbraided me  
in a stern voice: "Wake up, *Odysseus*!  
*You loaf at ease like an idle Lotus-*  
*eater, forgetting who*  
*you are; why did you exterminate*  
*all of the young noble suitors, the best*  
*among Achaean youths? Didn't they*  
*repent their youthful follies with*  
*full reparation, begging for their life*

2-783

2-786

2-789

2-792

2-795

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*at your mercy?" "Son of  
Atreus," said I, "what grave matter  
urged you to visit me from the dark Hades?*

2-798

*Your ignoble murder  
by the hands of your brazen wife  
taught me how to return to my homeland."*

2-801

*"Regal confidence was  
my doom," said he, "overdoing on  
too much contriving is your undoing.*

2-804

*Beware swarms of warships,  
sailing from your enraged neighbours:  
They surround Ithaca to storm your ports  
and sack your rich palace  
like the Achaean armies destroyed  
rich powerful Troy under my command."*

2-807

2-810

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

“*What is their pretext,*” asked  
I, “*for such a blatant lawless  
invasion?*” “*They intend to bring justice:*” 2-813  
    *Your execution or life-long  
exile as a fitting revenge  
for the slain suitors. Don’t dare to defy it,* 2-816  
    *Odysseus, against your fate!*”  
Thus saying, the ghost disappeared.  
I awoke, but the nightmare persisted in me. 2-819  
    Then I met tearful eyes  
of my beloved wise Penelope.  
“*Why do you stain your beauteous visage  
with tender tears?*” asked I. 2-822  
“*My Odysseus,*” said she, “*please take  
a solemn oath to gods that you shall never*” 2-825

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*leave me alone at home again."*

*"To all gods, I vow it; but why  
do you ask it now? Haven't I come back to you*

2-828

*across vast tempestuous seas,  
overcoming fierce tempers of gods  
and enticing temptations of goddesses,*

2-831

*only to live with you  
in love," said I, "and die in your  
comforting, loving arms?" "I know it;" said*

2-834

*she, "but in a dreadful dream,  
I saw you sailing far away again  
to Ogygia, returning to Calypso;*

2-837

*She would keep you deathless  
living with her;" "I chose to die  
with you, my dear beloved Penelope,"*

2-840

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

    said I, “*rather than to live  
endlessly without my free will.*”

At this moment, Telemachus rushed in

2-843

    and said: “*The vengeful  
families of the slain suitors  
plotted to attack us, forging fearsome forces  
ready to invade our land.*”

“*Tell me the tally of their forces,*”

    said I calmly, “*so that we weigh their strength.*”

2-849

    “*Fifty-two ships, each manned  
with hundred warriors, from Dulichion;  
Twenty-four warships from Same; twenty  
more ships from Zacynthus,*”

2-852

    said he. “*They will overwhelm us soon;  
I must run to Nestor and Menelaus*

2-855

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*to get their urgent helps.*

*Rig a fast ship for me to sail  
tonight, in secret,” said I in a grave voice.*

2-858

*“Hear me, wise Odysseus,”  
said Penelope, “calm down your  
fighting spirit, no more violent vile wars!*

2-861

*Let us solve this conflict  
in peace; please do not inflame it  
into an Ithacan War like the Trojan War.*

2-864

*Penelope will be  
forever accused of it as  
Helen has been blamed for the Trojan War.”*

2-867

*“I do not understand,”  
said I, “what you mean, Penelope.  
It was the vile suitors who had wronged us*

2-870

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*like bandits of hundred  
Aegisthus; seducing you, wasting  
our stores, plotting to kill our only son,* 2-873  
*and myself had I returned  
to my kingdom in public  
as Agamemnon was butchered by his wife!* 2-876

*They were justly punished  
by the will of gods through my hands.  
If we fight bravely, the gods will help us.* 2-879

*Most of all, how can you,  
or anyone, dispel their armies  
miraculously in peace as you wish?”* 2-882

“*I believe in the justice  
as you do; but I do not know,”*  
said Penelope, “*what judgment would gods make;* 2-885

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*As the gods never reveal  
their secret plans to us directly,  
let us send our envoy to Delphi to learn  
from the revered priestess  
about the divine judgment on this  
crucial matter; if the gods command you  
to fight to victory or death,  
then call your old comrades-in-arms  
for help. But if the gods find faults in us,  
and demand reprisal,  
then we must obey their verdict.”*

2-888

*“I see your keen insight, my wise beloved  
Penelope,” said I,  
“but who will protect Ithaca  
from our fierce enemy’s devastating attacks,*

2-891

2-894

2-897

2-900

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*right now?" "Tell me, dear son:  
Who is the commander-in-chief,"*  
asked Penelope, "of our mighty enemy?" 2-903  
*"Nisus, the king of Dulichion,"*  
said Telemachus. "Let me sail  
to Dulichion to speak with the father 2-906  
*of Amphionomus," said*  
Penelope in a solemn voice.  
*"No, mother! Why dare to take such dire risks?"* 2-909  
*What would you do with Nisus?"*  
*"I will try my best to persuade*  
*him to consult at Delphi to learn the gods'* 2-912  
*verdict before he acts:  
Invading us, or making peace  
as the gods decree. I will beg our old* 2-915

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*sage, Aegyptius, to guide  
me to King Nisus; they share pangs  
of sorrowful deaths of their beloved sons.*

2-918

*If you approve my plan,  
then send our herald Medon ahead  
to King Nisus, asking whether he would  
receive me in reverence  
to abide to the gods' judgment,  
revealed at the sacred shrine in Delphi."*

2-921

We obeyed to her wise  
courageous intention in awe.  
King Nisus sent us prompt courteous reply  
that he would summon other  
kings of Same and Zacynthus  
to Dulichion so that they would also meet with

2-927

2-930

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Queen Penelope, and  
take a solemn oath to abide fair  
divine verdicts to be heard at Delphi. 2-933

To persuade our enemies  
Penelope sailed to Dulichion  
with her handmaids and our old sage Aegyptius 2-936  
as her aide. Each day she  
was away, I felt it longer than  
years of waiting in my anxious, listless heart. 2-939

While I was wandering  
along shores in a desperate mood,  
I spotted our ship. I rushed to the harbour 2-942  
to greet my brave wise wife;  
Having won the hearts and respect  
of our formidable foes, she came back home 2-945

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

safe in tactful triumph.

Soon the fleets of enemy warships  
released their blockade of our vital harbours,  
and sailed back to their home ports.'

'O, how much I revere your wise  
wife, Queen Penelope!' *interrupts Outis,*

'She is my revered goddess,  
Athena and Artemis combined  
into one gracious wise, noble lady!'

She achieved her hopes for  
peace in such a sensible way  
with her resolute courage, deep wisdom,  
and a loving heart. Tell me  
what happened next.' 'Our envoy, headed  
by the honest seer Halitherses,' *says*

2-948

2-951

2-954

2-957

2-960

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Odysseus*, ‘joined with those  
of King Nisus; they went to Delphi  
to hear the divine verdicts, as we had sworn

2-963

to abide them. Meanwhile, I  
dispatched heralds to Nestor in  
Pylos, Menelaus in Sparta, Idomeneus

2-966

in Crete, and to Diomedes  
in Argos for urgent military  
aids. Telemachus inspired Ithacan

2-969

youths to defend their country.

The expert warrior, Mentor, helped  
him fortify our warships and harbours.’

2-972

‘How did your old comrades-  
in-arms respond to your urgent  
call for helps?’ asks *Outis*. ‘Nestor offered

2-975

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

to send his envoys to  
the kings of Dulichion, Zacynthus,  
and Same to warn them not to attack

2-978

Ithaca; he ordered  
his son, Pisistratus, to get ready  
their powerful fleets of warships

2-981

for crucial battles at sea.

King Idomeneus also promised  
that he would send warships to us, although

2-984

he had troubles with wild  
revolts within his kingdom.

As for Diomedes, our herald reported

2-987

that he had lost his kingship  
of Argos and no one knew where  
he was.' 'What about Menelaus?' asks *Outis*.

2-990

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

‘Somehow, he did not see  
our herald in person; his aides  
told that they would send their response later.

2-993

But nothing came to us,’  
*says Odysseus in a sombre mood.*

‘What verdict from Delphi did you hear, at last?’

2-996

‘After a month, our seer  
Halitherses came back; I saw  
the fateful verdict on his grave visage

2-999

before he opened his mouth:  
The gods decreed that the suitors’  
families must repay us tenfold what

2-1002

their sons had plundered in  
our house. When they fulfil it, then I  
must leave Ithaca for a life-long exile,

2-1005

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

never to return; that was  
the price of peace for Ithacans!'

'Ah, now I see all in light,' says *Outis*

2-1008

*in dismay*, 'but I think  
that gods made awful wrong judgement!'

'No, my dear Outis, it was a fair verdict;

2-1011

I accepted it as just  
punishments of my wrong overdoing.'

'I am bemused, wise godlike Odysseus.

2-1014

Tell me why you regarded  
such a harsh verdict to be fair.'

'In my belated hindsight,' says *Odysseus*,

2-1017

'I should have accepted what  
Eurymachus pleaded after I had shot  
down Antinous.' 'But how could you subdue,'

2-1020

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

asks *Outis*, ‘the multitude  
of arrogant suitors?’ ‘They were all  
in dire panic; I should have judged each suitor  
to confess what he had done

2-1023

to my family and estates  
in the presence of Queen Penelope

2-1026

and our honest servants  
who had observed how each suitor  
behaved in the past three years in our house.

2-1029

Those who committed serious  
crimes should be appropriately punished,  
while others who were innocent should be  
set free. I repent that

2-1032

I slew the meek, innocent seer  
Leodes who had entreated me for mercy.’

2-1035

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Outis looks up with deep  
reverence the noble visage  
of Odysseus beaming spiritual light.*

2-1038

*At last, he speaks: ‘How did  
you set out your endless roving  
in this harsh world, leaving your virtuous  
beloved wife alone at home, again?’*

2-1041

*‘You presumed wrong,’ says Odysseus.  
‘What? Did she join you in exile to share  
with you dire risks and pains  
of homeless wanderings?’ ‘Yes. She  
insisted that we should pursue a new life,  
saying: “My life in Ithaca  
without you will be a living-death,  
worse than ignoble death. I will follow*

2-1047

2-1050

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*you, my beloved Odysseus,  
to the end of this world, even  
to the depth of unseen netherworld!*

2-1053

*Let us humbly embark  
on our soul-searching pilgrimages  
to sacred lands to learn the true righteous ways* 2-1056  
*of our life to the very end!"*

*"Your noble sacrifice," said I  
deep from my heart, "revives me to breathe in* 2-1059  
*vibrant verve of our fresh  
new life. Let us sail to see all  
in this wide world. You lead me ahead in thought;* 2-1062

*I will uphold, in act,  
your wise will, my Penelope!"*

*"I am merely a meek woman; bid me* 2-1065

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*whatever I should do; ”*  
said she, blushing in delight, “*I  
will obey you with all my heart and soul!*” 2-1068

“*Don’t you recall the contest  
of my bow in our hall?*” “*Of course,  
I do; but why do you mention it now?*” 2-1071

“*How did you come up with  
such an ingenious idea to  
bring the bow to my hands at that crucial  
moment? I owe my life*” 2-1074

*to your wise brave decision; it  
outshines all my guile that made me resourceful  
in countless crises at  
bloody wars and stormy seas,*” said I from  
the depth of my heart. “*Desperate to know who*” 2-1077  
2-1080

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*the stranger was, I put  
myself and him on trial; my heart  
felt that the stranger should be my Odysseus;*

2-1083

*Yet my mind insisted on seeking  
for concrete proof of the truth.*

*It wasn't a willful act of wisdom; but*

2-1086

*a wife's insight of love  
for her long-lost dear husband," said  
she, beaming lovely smile, "as I had put*

2-1089

*the lethal bow in your  
triumphant hands, I must be blamed  
as much as you for the death of my suitors."*

2-1092

*"No, my dear wife!" said I,  
"Neither gods nor men can blame you;  
How wisely you have prevented an awful war!"*

2-1095

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*May our love be our shield  
from all perils in our new life.*

*Whereto, do you suggest, we should sail first?*” 2-1098

*“To Pylos: let us pay  
our warm respect to the old sage,  
Nestor; he may give us vital advice* 2-1101

*on our new adventures.”*

*“Would you like to lead a simple  
farmer’s life in Pylos at peace?” asked I.* 2-1104

*“No, my lord! Just a visit.*

*Next, let us go to see Helen  
and Menelaus back at their home in Sparta;* 2-1107

*Many things I wish to ask  
Helen about her bizarre secrets  
hidden deep in her heart. Helen and I* 2-1110

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*share a similar fate  
of women, accused to be causes  
of troubles for insolent, arrogant men.”* 2-1113

*“Helen’s blatant elopement  
with Paris sparked the Trojan War;”*  
said I, “but Penelope is revered  
*as the lofty paragon  
of wise, prudent, and faithful wife,  
in contrast to Helen or Clytemnestra.”* 2-1119

*“Helen is my dear cousin  
and best friend: we grew up together.  
I know that Helen has been a good noble  
lady with divine beauty  
and lofty gracious integrity,  
not an immoral wanton woman, at all!* 2-1122  
2-1125

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*I cannot trust the wily  
Atreidae's absurd accusation  
that Helen eloped with Paris to Troy,"* 2-1128  
said Penelope in stern  
indignation. *"I feel so, too,  
as your insight presages; but I don't know* 2-1131  
*what happened in such  
perplexing confusion. Have you  
any clues?"* said I. *"Why did Paris sail across* 2-1134  
*vast seas from Troy to Mycenae?  
He did not come with powerful  
Trojan armada to attack Sparta,  
and abduct Helen by force!"* 2-1137  
said Penelope. *"No! Paris sailed  
in a single ship, I heard, presumably* 2-1140

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*to visit King Tyndareus  
as an emissary of his father,  
King Priam. He landed at Helos to be  
escorted by Menelaus  
to see Tyndareus in Sparta,  
I surmise.” “According to what I learned  
much later from my father,  
however, Paris came to visit  
Agamemnon in Mycenae as his guest:  
He held grand festivals  
and feasts to entertain Paris  
for many weeks, inviting Tyndareus, Leda,  
their twin sons, Icarus,  
and other nobles to celebrate  
the visit of the handsome prince from Troy.”*

2-1143  
2-1146  
2-1149  
2-1152  
2-1155

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

    said Penelope with  
    resolute conviction.' 'What? Had  
    Agamemnon and Paris known each other  
    for so many years before  
    the Trojan War broke out?' *interrupts*

2-1158

*Outis, stunned in shocking astonishment.*      2-1161  
    'Yes, they knew! Agamemnon  
    managed to persuade Paris  
    to visit Menelaus in Helos

2-1164

    on his way returning  
    to Troy; while Paris sojourned at  
    his palace as an honoured guest, Menelaus  
    sailed away to Crete abruptly,  
    leaving Paris to be entertained  
    by Helen in his absence; his guileful

2-1167

2-1170

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

hoax excuse was to attend  
his grandfather's funeral in Crete.

Insightful Penelope pointed out to me

2-1173

how the vile and scheming

Atreidae ensnared poor Helen

as a tragic victim of their awful

2-1176

intrigues: “*Well I know*

*that Helen had been helplessly*

*lamenting her ill-matched dejected marriage*

2-1179

*to Menelaus, imposed*

*on her by Tyndareus under*

*Agamemnon's wily manipulations of threat*

2-1182

*and bribery. I feel*

*the dire miseries and utter agonies*

*of Helen deep in my heart as a woman;*

2-1185

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*She has been a gracious  
lady with a kind heart and divine  
beauty. Such a beauty caused her awful  
horrors when she was at her  
blooming tender age; she was abducted  
and raped by Theseus, the elderly king* 2-1188  
*of Athens. Although her brave  
brothers, Castor and Polydeuces  
rescued her later, Helen never had* 2-1191  
*recovered her true self  
from the dire atrocious experience,”*  
said Penelope with heartfelt sympathy. 2-1197  
  
*“I understand your deep  
true friendships for Helen;” said I,  
“The cunning Atreidae’s accusation that* 2-1200

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Paris had abducted Helen,  
was their sly hoax pretext to incite  
the Achaean chieftains to invade Troy.*

2-1203

*But why would Menelaus  
have pandered his noble wife Helen  
to elope with Paris?" "I think that vile  
ambitious Agamemnon  
might have persuaded, or even  
compelled cowardly Menelaus to mislead  
dire Helen in despairs,"*

2-1206

*said Penelope in a pensive tone.*

*"You have convinced me that we must visit* 2-1212

*Helen and Menelaus  
in Sparta at all cost; I will probe  
Menelaus to reveal the real purposes*

2-1215

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*of the vile Trojan War:*

*We destroyed splendid Troy in ruins;*

*But at what costs! So many innocent*

2-1218

*people and brave heroes*

*perished in Troy. But for what goals?*

*To imprison Helen back to Menelaus's*

2-1221

*dire dungeon? The shameful end*

*of wily arrogant Agamemnon,*

*butchered by his treacherous wife, mocks at*

2-1224

*the awful tragedy*

*of our vain, absurd, and utterly*

*meaningless victory!" said I in agony.*

2-1227

*"I will persuade Helen,"*

*said she, "to impart me real reasons*

*why she had to leave her home in Helos,*

2-1230

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*and took such bold and risky  
ventures to the foreign land, Troy,  
with the newly met stranger-guest, Paris.*

2-1233

*After our crucial visit  
of Helen and Menelaus in Sparta,  
let us sail to Crete; Your friendly comrade-  
in-arms, King Idomeneus,  
might reveal to us his private  
secrets about the homecoming of Helen*

2-1239

*and Menelaus after  
seven years of hard, harsh wanderings  
since they left the fallen Troy to return  
to Sparta. I heard that  
when they landed in Crete, Idomeneus  
provided them with vital helps to restore*

2-1242

2-1245

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*their power to rule Sparta.*

*Did you know that Helen had loved  
Idomeneus the most among her suitors?"*

2-1248

*"No. How interesting!*

*I love to see my good old friend,  
Idomeneus in Crete. Furthermore, there are  
many cultural heritages  
in Crete for us to see and learn:*

2-1251

*Crete had been the ancient cradle of our  
Civilization; let us  
sail to Crete after  
we visited Sparta. You lead me with brilliant ideas;* 2-1257  
*I will follow you with  
resolute actions!" Thus I exclaimed  
with heartfelt enthusiasm. "May I entreat you* 2-1260

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*my ardent wishes?" said she,  
beaming a subtle lovely smile.*

*"Yes, of course, my beloved wise Penelope!"*

2-1263

*"I wish to visit Troy  
with you, my dear brave Odysseus,  
as humble pilgrims of peace for the whole  
humanity!" "What? To visit  
Troy?" said I in surprise, "What do  
you want to do in the dangerous ruins*

2-1266

*of Troy?" "I want to honour  
all victims of the Trojan War:  
Unknown innocent people as well as*

2-1269

*Achaean and Trojan  
heroes who fell in Troy. How much  
I wish to visit the tombs of King Priam,*

2-1275

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Hector, and Paris to pay  
my humble heartfelt homage to  
these noble human beings. If we find  
in the ruins of once such  
splendid Troy anything we can help  
the Trojans recover from devastation,*

2-1278

*let us devote ourselves  
to the task of reparation,”*

2-1281

2-1284

*“It is extremely hard  
and dangerous task; but if you  
believe that is what we must undertake,*

2-1287

*I will certainly join with  
you to pursue it to the very end!”*

2-1290

She embraced me passionately in delight,

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

and said, beaming lovely smile:

*“Thank you, my Odysseus! After  
Troy, let us sail to Egypt, the mystic  
land by the Nile; I wish  
to learn their sacred old wisdom!”*

2-1293

*“How deep you read my mind;” said I, “even  
before I grasp what I  
want to do. Let us set off  
new adventures to learn human nature*

2-1296

2-1299

*to the very end!” Thus we  
breathed in a new meaningful life  
through our endless exile.’ ‘I marvel at,’  
says Outis, ‘how you turned  
the anguish of homeless wanderings  
into exciting quests for our true nature.*

2-1302

2-1305

**Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope***

How did you fare with  
the suitors' families? Did they  
also obey the gods' decree, repaying  
their dues and making peace  
with Ithaca?' 'Yes, they obeyed  
the verdict, and eventually paid ten-fold  
what their sons had devoured  
in our house. When we shared them with  
Ithacans in good spirit of our common-wealth,  
I got aboard my swift ship  
with Penelope; we bade a warm  
farewell to our people. Weeping like forlorn  
children losing their dear  
old parents, the whole Ithacans  
gathered on seashores to pay their loving  
2-1308  
2-1311  
2-1314  
2-1317  
2-1320

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

tribute to us. “*Farewell,*”  
said I, “*my dear worthy Ithacans!*  
*May you all flourish in the good life at peace.*” 2-1323  
*Be faithful and help each*  
*other to overcome all hardships.*  
*Be brave and loyal to protect your homeland.”* 2-1326

Then to Telemachus  
I spoke: “*Steer your ship of the state*  
*with prudence, wisdom, courage, and humble*” 2-1329  
*dedication with all*  
*your heart and soul; be a gentle*  
*faithful friend to your people, and a loyal*” 2-1332  
*servant for their commonwealth.”*  
“*I shall keep your words in my heart*  
*and put them to rule my life and actions,*” 2-1335

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

said Telemachus in tears.

“*Our beloved son,*” said Penelope,  
“*do not worry about us wandering over* 2-1338  
*vast unknown seas; but pray*  
*that we may reach mystic harbours*  
*to learn human nature to the very end!*” 2-1341

“*O dear mother mine, you*  
*speak like a wise gracious goddess;*  
*Embrace me to uplift my troubled spirit.*” 2-1344

I took the helm of our ship  
and steered it at immense deep sea.  
How good it was to breathe in vibrant sea-breezes! 2-1347

The vast horizon enthralled  
us in mysterious splendours.  
A faint figure of landmass appeared afar 2-1350

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

like a giant leviathan,  
swimming amid the enchanting sea.

“*Is that land Pylos?*” asked Penelope

2-1353

in excitements. “*No. It’s*

*Dulichion,*” said I, smiling. “*What?*

*Why do you head there?*” asked she in surprise.

2-1356

“*I intend to make peace*

*with King Nisus in person,*” said I.

She gently hugged and kissed me in delight.’

2-1359

‘What a bold brinkmanship!’

*interrupts Outis*, ‘you dared to

visit another Cyclops’ land with your

2-1362

gentle wife? How did King

Nisus receive you?’ ‘In a surprise,

he spoke: “*What did bring both of you to visit*

2-1365

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Dulichion, great hero*

*Odysseus and wise, noble Queen*

*Penelope?" "I am on the way of*

2-1368

*my life-long exile," said I,*

*"to abide by the gods' decree. I apologize*

*for my overdoing, and want to make peace*

2-1371

*with you, King Nisus, and*

*with other suitors' families*

*who grieve over the loss of their beloved sons."*

2-1374

*"Man of integrity,*

*resourceful Odysseus! I revere*

*your noble conscience and intrepid guts.*

2-1377

*We do mourn our lost sons;"*

*said he, "but I think that the gods*

*punished their insolence by your bold hands.*

2-1380

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*All of us worried about  
what course of actions we could take,  
if you would refuse to obey the gods’  
verdict. Now, I wonder*

2-1383

*why Queen Penelope came with  
you to revisit us.” “I’m a modest  
wife,” said Penelope  
beaming gentle smile, “following  
my beloved husband wherever he leads*

2-1386

*me with all my heart and soul.”  
“What? You have decided to join with  
your husband in hard, harsh life-long exile?”*

2-1389

*cried he out, stunned in awe.*

*Deeply moved, King Nisus held a grand  
feast for reconciliation and farewell.*

2-1395

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Many prominent families  
of the suitors came from Same  
and Zacynthus as well as in Dulichion  
to meet with us. When we  
restored our old goodwill, I spoke:

*“Thank you for your kind amity to me  
and my wife. I wonder  
how the wooing of my wife by your  
sons as unsolicited bold suitors came about.*

2-1398

2-1401

2-1404

*Her righteous father, King  
Icarus, had never invited  
anyone to marry her while I was far away  
for a long time from my home.”*

Then King Nisus spoke: “*Antinous  
came here, and lured our young noblemen to*

2-1407

2-1410

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*Ithaca to revel  
with him. We would never dare to  
approve our sons to court your noble wife  
while you were away from home.*

2-1413

*I was dismayed why the Ithacans  
allowed Antinous and his gangs to plunder  
your palace, and to disgrace  
their noble queen as if she were  
a wanton woman who flirted with heady lads.”*

2-1416

2-1419

“In my absence,” said I,  
“Eupithes, the father of Antinous,  
and Polybus, the father of Eurymachus,”  
gained wealth and power in  
Ithaca; they might have vied that  
their sons to be the king of Ithaca,

2-1422

2-1425

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*instead of Telemachus.*

*I wish to know whether someone  
instigated you to invade Ithaca,  
or was it by your own will*

2-1428

*to avenge your dead sons?" Then King  
Nisus spoke in grave mood: "I was very much*

2-1431

*reluctant to make such  
a risky and futile invasion;*

*First of all, even if we could kill you,*

2-1434

*none of our dead sons could  
come back home alive. Furthermore, I  
was keenly aware of your godlike power  
of superb military tactics*

2-1437

*and the danger of counter-attacks  
with formidable armed forces of Nestor*

2-1440

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*and Idomeneus; they could  
easily wipe out all of us.*

*Someone had instigated our influential*

2-1443

*nobles to avenge their dead*

*sons so well that they threatened to*

*revolt against me unless I dared to lead*

2-1446

*such a massive invasion*

*of Ithaca.” Then an elder among*

*the guests spoke: “I know the man who instigated*

2-1449

*us to invade. He is*

*a refugee from Ithaca. He claimed*

*that his son was one of the slain suitors.”*

2-1452

Promptly King Nisus ordered

to fetch the man under arrest.

When he was brought in, I cried out in wrath:

2-1455

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

“*This is sly Eupithes,  
the father of Antinous, who  
lured your sons to revel with him in my house!*”

2-1458

Indignant King Nisus

and his enraged guests dragged Eupithes  
out, and stoned the evil traitor to death.”

2-1461

‘Now, I see all in clear  
light;’ *interrupts Outis*, ‘evil  
intrigues behind the arrogant absurd

2-1464

courting of your helpless  
wife by insolent gangs, pretending  
as unsolicited suitors to plunder

2-1467

your estates and usurp  
your throne. Your audacious visit  
of King Nisus was crucial to reconcile

2-1470

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

and restore amity with  
the grieving suitors' families  
by revealing the vile cunning intrigues.

2-1473

Please tell me what happened  
next in your eventful adventures.'  
'King Nisus and his royal family,  
the nobles, and many common  
people escorted us with touching  
amity. When we got on our ship, King

2-1476

2-1479

Nisus came up to us,  
and spoke: "*Resourceful Odysseus,*  
*I will regard young King Telemachus*  
*dear to me as my son was!*"

2-1482

"*Thank you, wise King Nisus. Help him,*"  
said I, "*in whatever ways you can do*

2-1485

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

*for all to prosper in peace.”*

Then he knelt humbly before my wife,  
and said: “*Wise gracious Queen Penelope!*

2-1488

*You have saved us from dire  
traps of vile, gory, and pointless war.*

*May you accomplish your lofty adventures  
to pursue the profound  
mystery of human nature.*

2-1491

*I will pray to you as the merciful  
goddess who saved our life.”*

We bade farewell in a kindred spirit.

Finally, we set our sails towards Pylos.

2-1497

Fresh, vibrant breaths of sea  
inspired us new hopes. The sun  
set on the immense glittering water.

2-1500

**Book 2: Exile of Odysseus with Penelope**

Penelope and I gazed  
at it rapt deep in a blissful  
trance. Countless twinkling stars appeared in  
the boundless clear night sky.

2-1503

Gently, Penelope sang for me  
heavenly songs of love with ardent passion.

2-1506

The ship of our common  
destiny sailed through the enchanting  
night to greet a beauteous dawn of new hopes.'

2-1509

'O my poet sublime,  
Odysseus! How deep you move my soul;  
In you, I find my new Muse!' says *Homer-Outis*,

2-1512

*exalting the poetic  
elegance as well as wondrous  
new things revealed by Odysseus's recounting.*

2-1515

**Book 2: *Exile of Odysseus with Penelope***

*Hence ventures the earnest  
bard Homer-Outis deep into  
his inner realm of boundless imaginations.*

2-1518

To be continued in:

***Human Causes of the Trojan War:  
Inner Journey into Human Nature {2}***



## Epilogue

[A] The dialogues between the character, '*Homer-Outis*' and the character '*Odysseus*' in this fictional narrative are mere imaginations; yet, the author has tried them to be based on the relevant classic Greek texts in English translations to the best of his ability as much as they may be workable with the following references:

(A-1). *The Odyssey of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1919), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press.

*The Odyssey of Homer*: translated by Fitzgerald, R. (1961), Doubleday & Company; and

*The Odyssey of Homer*: translated by Fagles, R. (1996), Penguin Books.

(A-2). *The Iliad of Homer*: translated by Murray, A. (1924), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press;

*The Iliad of Homer*: translated by Lattimore, R. (1951), University of Chicago Press; and

*The Iliad of Homer*: translated by Fagles, R (1990), Penguin Books.

(A-3) *Hesiod, The Homeric Hymns and Homerica*: translated by Evelyn-White, H. G. (1914), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard Univ. Press

(A-4) *Early Greek Myth* by Gantz, T. (1993), Johns Hopkins University Press.

[B] The relevance between the *Book 1* of the present fiction and the above references may be summarized as follows:

(B-1) Homer-Outis's recitation of an episode from his *Odyssey* to the unknown godlike sage (later revealed as the shade of Odysseus) {from the line 1-84 to the line 1-317 in this work} relies on the breathtaking episode of the crucial contest of stringing and shooting the old bow of the absent King Odysseus, imposed by Queen Penelope to her suitors in Book 21 of the *Odyssey* in the references (A-1).

(B-2) Homer-Outis's narration of the gist of his entire *Odyssey* and Odysseus's brief comments {from line 1-420 to line 1-1125} rely on *The Odyssey* in (A-1).

(B-3) Homer-Outis's conjecture about the life of his revered elder bard Homer-Meles, the bard of the *Iliad*, {from line 1-1126 to line 1-1153} is based on *Homerica* in reference (A-3).

(B-4) Homer-Outis's narration of a pithy gist of the *Iliad* {from line 1-1177 to line 1-1397} relies on the texts of the *Iliad* in (A-2).

(B-5) Homer-Outis's recitation of the Achilles's consent to Patroclus {from line 1-1288 to line 1-1302} relies on the episode in Book 16 of *The Iliad* in (A-2).

[C] The relevance between the *Book 2* of the present fiction and the above references may be summarized as follows:

(C-1) The character *Odysseus*'s story how he met with his future wife Penelope {from line 2-413 to line 2-556 } is imagined from the relevant Greek legends, compiled in the extensive collection: *Early Greek Myth* by Timothy Gantz in (A-4).

(C-2) The *Odysseus*'s conjecture why Tyndareus abdicated his throne to Menelaus {from line 2-537 to line 2-591} is made up of the legends compiled in (A-4).

(C-3) The character *Homer-Outis*'s citation of Helen's lament at the funeral of Hector {from line 2-678 to line 2-692} relies on the text in Book 24 of *The Iliad* in (A-2).

[D] All other episodes in this narrative are purely fictional imaginations for which the author is unable to provide any reference, nor to claim them as if they were historical facts, at all: Especially the alleged massive invasion of Ithaca, attempted by the angry families of the suitors slain by Odysseus for revenge, Penelope's wise diplomacy to

avoid such a grave catastrophic war, the life-long exile of Odysseus, and Penelope's joining with Odysseus in exile are all imaginary inventions that have been essential to unfold and sustain the present fictional narrative: ***Inner Journey into Human Nature.***

(D-1) The episode of Laertes and Odysseus {from line 2-160 to line 2-275} in the present fiction is radically different from that in Book 24 of *The Odyssey* in (A-1).

(D-2) All other episodes in *Book 2* of the present fiction {from line 2-780 to 2-1509} are imaginary inventions that are radically different from that in Book 24 of *The Odyssey* in (A-1) and that in *Telegony of the Epic Cycle* in (A-3).

[E] The present fictional narrative is written in syllabic tercet stanzas: The *Book 1* sings in the descending tercet: 10-8-6 syllables, while the *Book 2* sings in the ascending tercet: 6-8-10 syllables. It is not a traditional English poem with the proper accentual prosody. Nevertheless, this strange syllabic writing is what its author could try best in his pidgin English to sing of the lofty ideas and sublime spirit of his revered ancient Greek poets who have inspired and nurtured him.

[F] The author wishes to acknowledge and appreciate deep inspirations and soul-searching influences by *The Divine Comedy* of Dante (1265 – 1321). The adaptation of the tercet stanzas in his humble works has been inspired by the terza rima of *La Commedia* of Dante. Although the sublime spirituality, the beauty of the exquisite poetic form, and the deeply moving music of *La Commedia* of Dante are high above far beyond his reach. Yet, they inspire him like the mysterious spiritual stars shining in the inner heaven.

[G] The cover photograph of this book was taken in Nova Scotia, Canada, by the author.

Art Aeon



